In Sports: Squires, Norse meet on hardwood. **Page B1**

Wabash Plain Dealer

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

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Tomorrow's weather 15 | 5



Pulse of Wabash

Wabash Plain Dealer's new website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabashplaindealer.com and let us know what you think. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Celebrate February birthdays

February's Birthday Party will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. Featuring Ellen Mock, vocalist, and Peggy Coppler, pianist. Ice cream and homemade cake will be served. Sign up today for a fun-filled celebration.

Skywarn weather spotter training set

A Skywarn weather spotter training session has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13 at the skating rink at the Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. Check-in begins at 6:30 p.m. Online registration is available at https://wabashinspotter.eventzilla.net. Registration may also be completed by calling 260-563-3181 or 574-834-1104.

Second Harvest tailgate planned at Senior Center

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana will provide food for families in need at a tailgate distribution from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at the Dallas L. Winchester Senior Center, Living Well in Wabash County, 239 Bond St. Participants must enter the drive-through line from the Hill Street entrance of the city park. The distribution is while supplies last, and there is a limit of three families per vehicle. No tailgate distributions will take place when wind-chill is reported

See **PULSE**, page A6

Inside

Classified, B6 Sports, B1
Comics, B4 Food, A5
Crossword, B4 Viewpoint, A4
Obituaries, A3 Weather, A2

6 94653 00171 4

County receives over $3.4M for two bridge repairs

INDOT: $120.8M in federal funds for 52 rural cities, towns, counties

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) announced Wednesday that $120.8 million in federal transportation funding was being awarded to 52 cities, towns, and counties in rural portions of Indiana to invest in local road and bridge improvements and sidewalk projects, according to Scott Manning, strategic communications director.

In response to a Plain Dealer request, Manning stated Wabash County received a total of over $3.4 million for two bridge replacement projects.

The first, for $1,265,680, will be for bridge replacement on Old State Road 15. The second, for $2,162,000, will be for bridge replacement on State Road 114.

In response to a Plain Dealer request, Cole Wyatt, Wabash County highway superintendent, stated that the grants are an 80 percent/20 percent split, with the county's match being the smaller figure.

"The county is mandated by federal law to conduct a bridge inspection program," he stated. "These bridges were chosen as a result of that inspection for replacement due to their level of deterioration."

Wyatt stated one project is scheduled for construction in 2024 and the other is scheduled for 2025.

For this latest round of funding, rural communities will design, develop and purchase land for projects that would be bid during the fiscal year beginning July 2025.

While the funds awarded now are dedicated to construction, INDOT will also be financially participating in the design, engineering and right of way acquisition components of these projects.

"Federal transportation funds are leveraged by many communities to rehabilitate or replace local bridges," stated Manning. "As INDOT continues to partner with local governments to make record investments in taking care of existing roads and bridges, this round of funding awards emphasized improving local bridge conditions."

Nearly $87 million in federal funds were awarded for projects to rehab or replace 54 local bridges currently rated in poor condition.

Beyond bridge projects, these funds will support pavement resurfacing/reconstruction projects; Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects such as sidewalks, ADA ramps, and trails; and traffic safety projects.

INDOT dedicates approximately 25 percent of its federal highway funds to support local projects each year.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) distribute those funds to cities, towns and counties within the state's larger urbanized areas while INDOT distributes funds outside MPO areas.

Communities were invited to submit project applications to INDOT for potential funding during a call for projects announced in October 2019.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.



Provided photos

Wabash County was honored for a Public Facilities Program grant of $500,000, with a $261,422 local match.

Crouch, OCRA honors local grant recipients

City, county, Wabash Marketplace recognized at Statehouse

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch along with the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) recognized more than 85 individuals and communities who partnered with the agency throughout 2019 to collaboratively shape and execute their vision for local community and economic development opportunities on Thursday, Feb. 6 at the Statehouse, according to Melissa Thomas, communications manager.

Among the local honorees were:

■ The city of Wabash for a Quick Impact Place-based Grant (QuIP's) Peer Mentoring Program of $4,000, with a $4,000 local match to fund a collaborative program with the Town of Edinburg.

■ Wabash County for a Public Facilities Program grant of $500,000, with a $261,422 local match.

■ Wabash Marketplace for QuIP grant for an art project with local traffic control boxes of $4,418, with a $4,418 local match.

"Today was another opportunity for the City of Wabash, Wabash Marketplace, and Wabash County to be on stage at the Statehouse with Lt. Governor Crouch and the Director of OCRA, Jodi Golden," stated Mayor Scott Long, in response to a Plain Dealer request. "We have, and continue to be recognized at the state level for our ability to cooperate locally, to get many great things accomplished for our city and county."

The CDBG was established to secure federal financial assistance to fund projects in rural Indiana

See **GRANT**, page A2



The city of Wabash was honored for a Quick Impact Place-based Grant (QuIP's) Peer Mentoring Program of $4,000, with a $4,000 local match to fund a collaborative program with the Town of Edinburg.

Manchester Civic Band looking for new members

Group set to start their 48th anniversary year

By STAFF REPORT

The Manchester Civic Band is getting ready to start its 48th year entertaining North Manchester and surrounding communities with free live music ranging from traditional marches and concert band pieces to jazz and big band favorites, according to a press release.

"We will be playing some newer pop and rock music too," stated the release.

A callout meeting has been planned for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Manchester High School band room through the double doors at the southeast corner of the building.

This all-volunteer, amateur band was organized by Harold and Mary Lou Leckrone and their daughter, Pat Egolf in 1972. After Harold's passing in 1987, the band leadership transitioned and eventually Reg Smith took the baton. After 30-plus years directing the band, Smith decided to step back and Samantha (Sam) Howard is now setting the beat.

See **BAND**, page A2

Salamonie Preschool offers 'E is for Energy!'

Program set for Wednesday, Feb. 19

By STAFF REPORT

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Preschool's "E is for Energy!" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 at Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews, according to a press release.

Preschoolers will learn about animals depending on plants for food.

The class will be offered from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Salamonie Interpretive Center located in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, Andrews.

"Each program is designed to enhance the preschooler's basic education, including music, crafts, social interaction and time outdoors, always with a nature-related theme," stated the release.

The program fee is $2 per child. Advance registration is appreciated. Register by calling Upper Wabash Interpretive Services at 260-468-2127.

For more information on other UWIS programs, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

Kindle the flame with your valentine, not your house

On Feb. 14 and throughout the year, be mindful of candle safety tips

By STAFF REPORT

As Valentine's Day approaches, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) encourages everyone to keep in mind candle safety tips to avoid a not so lovely evening, according to a press release.

According to NFPA research, between 2013 and 2017, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 7,900 home structure fires that were started by candles per year. These fires caused an annual average of 80 civilian fire deaths and 720 civilian fire injuries annually; with three of every five (60 percent) home candle fires occurring when something that easily burns was left or came too close to the candle. More than one-third (37 percent) of home candle fires started in the bedroom.

Five things you should know to avoid a candle fire:

■ Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.

■ Blow out all candles before you leave a room or go to bed.

■ If a candle must burn continuously, be sure it is enclosed in a glass container; or placed in a sink, on a metal tray, or in a deep basin filled with water.

■ Hand-held candles should not be passed from one person to another at any time.

■ Never leave children alone in a room with a burning candle.

"NFPA always reminds the public to make sure they have working smoke alarms and to develop and practice an escape plan," stated the release.

Joe Biden looks to South Carolina to resurrect his campaign

By BILL BARROW
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Joe Biden brought his wounded presidential campaign to South Carolina on Tuesday, staking his hopes for a comeback on the loyalty of black voters in the state after a dismal finish in the New Hampshire primary magnified his disappointing finish in Iowa.

"I know this is going to be the fight of my life," Biden told about 200 enthusiastic supporters gathered near the South Carolina Capitol to hear the 77-year-old former vice president deliver an emotional appeal. Biden eagerly looked ahead as the nomination fight moves beyond the overwhelmingly white opening states to Nevada, South Carolina and a Super Tuesday slate where African Americans and Latinos will hold considerable sway.

"We just heard from the first two of 50 states. Two of them," Biden said. "That's the opening bell, not the closing bell."

The candidate argued that no Democratic nominee has succeeded without significant support from African Americans, the core of his base in a fractured primary field. The electorate in South Carolina's Feb. 29 primary, the first in the South, is expected to be more than 60 percent black and could approach 70 percent, according to state party leaders.

Still, there is little Democratic precedent for the kind of comeback Biden is trying to pull off. Since 1992, no Democrat has claimed the nomination in the modern primary system without winning either Iowa or New Hampshire.

Biden's campaign had said for months they didn't have to win either state, but that strategy didn't necessarily consider finishing so far off the pace. In recent days, Biden's donor base has since grown nervous, raising questions about his financial viability if he doesn't rebound quickly.

Biden boarded a private jet in Manchester on Tuesday evening – even before New Hampshire primary polls closed – ending an eight-day whirlwind that saw the former vice president go from a national front-runner for the nomination to a battered underdog.

He finished fourth in the Iowa caucuses, and with votes still being tabulated in New Hampshire, Biden was vying for fourth alongside Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Each was at risk of finishing without winning any delegates out of the nation's first primary.

In his remarks Tuesday night, Biden praised Iowa's and New Hampshire's opening roles, but argued that 99.9 percent of African Americans and 99.8 percent of Latinos haven't yet had the opportunity to cast Democratic primary ballots.

"Do not let anyone take this election away from you," he said in a speech that touted his deep political ties to South Carolina and to the black community.

Biden mentioned his relationship with South Carolina's lone Democratic congressman, Jim Clyburn, the highest ranking black lawmaker on Capitol Hill. He noted his service as President Barack Obama's top lieutenant. He recalled meeting South African leader Nelson Mandela. And he promised black Americans a seat at the table in the Oval Office.

"Too often your loyalty, your commitment, your support for this party has been taken for granted," he said. "I give you my word as a Biden that I never, ever, ever will."

Biden was introduced by his campaign co-chairman, Cedric Richmond, a Louisiana congressman and former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Richmond recalled for the crowd the first question he asked himself when deciding who to support: "Who do I trust?"

South Carolina has been a springboard for the nominee before. Four years ago, Hillary Clinton and Sanders battled to a draw in Iowa and Sanders beat her in New Hampshire, prompting a round of hand-wringing from some party leaders and national media. Clinton went on to crush Sanders in South Carolina and the diverse states that immediately followed, building a delegate lead he could never overcome. Eight years earlier, it was Obama, the nation's first black president, who used the black vote to put distance between his campaign and Clinton.

This isn't a two-person race, though, and Biden is looking merely to return to contender status. But 2020 already has proven unusual, with no candidate having demonstrated the ability to build a broad coalition across the party's racial, ethnic and ideological factions. Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg achieved a split decision in Iowa and Sanders barely edged out Buttigieg in New Hampshire.

Sanders, a Vermont senator and democratic socialist, has paltry support among the party's establishment core, and for months he has trailed Biden in support among nonwhite Democrats. Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, has struggled to corral meaningful support from black or Latino voters.

The same is true for Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who finished just behind Biden in Iowa but finished third in New Hampshire.

Biden does have competition for the black vote in South Carolina. Billionaire businessman Tom Steyer has spent large sums on advertising, while Biden's financial struggles have left him largely absent from the state's airwaves. The former vice president will depend on voters like Tina Herbert, a Columbia attorney who was eager to see him Tuesday night.

"I thought it was important that I showed my face and showed my support for him tonight," she said. "I've been with him since Day One."

Herbert said she wasn't concerned about Biden's finishes in any other early states.

"We are not really receptive to outsiders, so we don't listen to their opinions, even when we should, good or bad," she said.

5-Day Weather Summary

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Snow Showers Likely	Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Isolated Snow	Rain & Snow Possible
29 / 4	15 / 5	35 / 27	36 / 30	45 / 37

Sun and Moon

Today's sunset ..... 6:19 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 7:44 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
2/15	2/23	3/2	3/9

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see cloudy skies with a 95% chance of snow showers, high temperature of 29°, humidity of 95%. West northwest wind 6 to 15 mph. New snow accumulation between one to two inches possible. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 4°. West northwest wind 6 to 14 mph.

Friend has low self-esteem after weight-loss surgery

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity



DEAR HARRIETTE: My best friend is the most beautiful girl that I know. She is funny, smart and an amazing singer. I've known her since we were in the sixth grade, so she is basically my sister. Lately, she has been down, and it is mostly due to her weight.

In middle school, she was close to being morbidly obese, so she was bullied a lot by our classmates. When we got into high school, she was selected to get gastric bypass surgery, which is a procedure that shrinks the stomach. After a couple of months, she started losing a ton of weight. She lost over 200 pounds! I am so proud of her, and she looks amazing. But she doesn't think so. I encourage her every day because I know she is a beautiful girl and that she should be proud of how much she has accomplished. My one concern is that I don't want her to develop an eating disorder, and I don't know what else to do to help her through her body image problem. What can I do to help her out? – Concerned Bestie

DEAR CONCERNED BESTIE: Before gastric bypass surgery, patients typically have to get psychological counseling. It is good to have afterward, too. Accepting yourself for who you are is a key to a healthy life. Of course, it is important to take action to heal your body, but it often takes a while for the mind to catch up.

Encourage your friend to engage a psychologist to support her during this time of transition. Point out how much she has accomplished and how proud of her you are. Tell her that you have learned that getting professional support can help her to be strong and happy. To learn more, go to bit.ly/2U8MKNs.

DEAR HARRIETTE: My husband and I have not been intimate in years. It started with him having a medical condition, followed by several years of nasty back and forth. I felt like we were always yelling. I had no desire to have sex if the only other interaction that was happening was mean-spirited and negative. We have been mainly getting along recently, mostly focused on work and our children. But our second kid is about to go away to college.

As we have been planning for college, my husband mentioned that when our son leaves, he wants a divorce. This should not be a surprise; we have been mostly coexisting for years, but I guess I never thought it would actually happen. I'm scared to death. I haven't been on my own for years. My husband makes way more money than I do, and even though we are at retirement age, I doubt I can ever retire. I don't know how I will make it on my own. How can I get him to reconsider? – Stop the Divorce

DEAR STOP THE DIVORCE: Nothing that you said suggests that you want to save the marriage. It appears that you want to save your finances. Depending on where you live, you may be eligible for as much as half of your husband's assets. That may help. But, for starters, why not ask your husband to go to counseling with you? Even if it ends up as professional support for how you uncouple, it may prove helpful for you to figure out your next steps.

Harriette Cole is a lifestylist and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to ask harriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

GRANT

From page A1

communities to help improve the quality of life and ensure the health and safety of citizens. There are six different grant programs offered through the CDBG to address sewer and water systems, community centers, health and safety programs, and long-term local revitalization efforts.

"Congratulations to the Wabash community, and thank you to the local leaders who put these grant proposals together," stated Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington. "Initiatives like these improve our quality of life, create collaborative partnerships and inspire interest in the arts. I look forward to the positive impacts these transformational projects will have in Senate District 17."

QuIP grants are allocated to provide funding for social and physical local projects that spark community-wide conversation and creativity.

"We will host a dedication event for the project during First Friday in May," stated Andrea Zwiebel, Wabash Marketplace executive director, in response to a Plain Dealer request. "The project is the electrical box art wraps across the county. There are 15 in total."

Crouch said more than $56 million local community dollars were combined with the $35 million OCRA funding to complete quality of place improvements like water system enhancements, the building of public facilities, main street revitalization, historic renovation and downtown enhancement.

The 2019 awards ceremony marks OCRA's 14th anniversary since the agency's creation in 2005. State legislators, mayors, local elected officials, grant administrators, community development organizations, community partners and businesses were present at the awards ceremony and celebration.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

BAND

From page A1

"We gladly welcome any musicians from junior high age on up, and any instruments," stated the release. "Don't worry if it has been a while since you played, many of us came back to the band after decades of not playing. Don't have an instrument? We may be able to help in locating one for you to use, rent or maybe even buy."

Practices are held beginning at 7 p.m. and ending at either 8:30 or 9 p.m. Wednesdays in the Manchester High School Band Room.

"Need to come late or leave early? No problem. Just be here as often and for as long as you can," stated the release. Our goal is to make great music together, entertain our audiences and make musical friends. Come join the fun," stated the release.

Visit us online at www.wabashplaindealer.com

THE ROXY MOVIE THEATER
Roxy 5 Showtimes for Friday, February 7– Thursday, February 13
All showtimes have Closed Captioning available.

Birds of Prey (R)
Fri: 6:50, 9:40
Sat: 1:10, 3:55, 6:50, 9:40
Sun: 1:10, 3:55, 6:50
Mon- Thurs: 6:50

Gretel and Hansel (PG13)
Fri: 6:40, 9:10
Sat: 1:20, 4:15, 6:40, 9:10
Sun: 1:20, 4:15, 6:40
Mon- Thurs: 6:40

Dolittle (PG)
Fri: 7:00, 9:30
Sat: 1:40, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30
Sun: 1:40, 4:25, 7:00
Mon- Thurs: 7:00

The Gentlemen (R)
Fri: 6:30, 9:20
Sat: 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:20
Sun: 1:00, 3:45, 6:30
Mon- Thurs: 6:30

1917 (R)
Fri: 7:10, 9:50
Sat: 1:30, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50
Sun: 1:30, 4:05, 7:10
Mon- Thurs: 7:10

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READERS' CHOICE REPORTS

TUESDAY'S LOTTERIES

Cash 5
05-12-34-39-45
Estimated jackpot: $195,000
Cash4Life
11-22-32-34-48, Cash Ball: 2
Daily Three-Midday
3-6-5, SB: 2
Daily Three-Evening
0-3-0, SB:
Daily Four-Midday
8-0-5-3, SB: 2
Daily Four-Evening
1-9-8-6, SB:
Mega Millions
04-06-32-52-64, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: $202 million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: $70 million

WEDNESDAY'S METALS

Aluminum	.77
Copper	2.58
Lead	.83
Zinc	.97
Gold	1,566.78
Silver	17.51
Platinum	961.44

AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices Wednesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: $4.02. Soybeans: $8.79.

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■ **Call:** 260-563-2131

■ **Email:** news@wabashplaindealer.com

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Obituaries

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Vernon Loy Pratt

July 4, 1943 – Feb. 11, 2020



Vernon Loy Pratt, 76, of rural Wabash, Indiana, died at 12:18 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. He was born July 4, 1943 in Wabash, to Walter and Mary (Lewis) Pratt.

Vernon married Ada M. Creecy in Centerville, Michigan on Aug. 29, 1961. He worked at General Tire/Trelleborg in Wabash and Peru, retiring after 41 years, and also worked 15 years at Crystal Flash in Wabash. Vernon was a member of the Church of Christ at Treaty. He enjoyed listening to music, watching Fox News, and being with his family. Vernon was an avid IU Basketball and Indianapolis Colts fan.

He is survived by his Wife, Ada Pratt of Wabash, two children, Mark (Becky) Pratt of Wabash, and Diana (Charlie) Hunt of LaFontaine, Indiana, five grandchildren, Brittany (Ben) Brubaker and Amanda (Mikey) Stevenson, both of Wabash, Emma Hunt of LaFontaine, Cassandra Diskey and Chase Hunt, both of Wabash, seven great grandchildren, brother, Herbert Pratt of Bluefield, West Virginia, and two sisters, Marilyn (Max) Benson of Princeton, West Virginia, and Janice (Gerry) Brakkee of California. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Kenneth Pratt, and grandson, Logan Hunt.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Ryan Weaver and Leon Kirk officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 9:30 – 11 a.m. Saturday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is the family of Vernon Pratt, for expenses.

The memorial guest book for Vernon may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Judith Elaine Etling

April 18, 1940 – Feb. 11, 2020



Judith Elaine Etling, 79, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 9:55 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 at her home. She was born April 18, 1940 in Wabash, to Bert Brothers Sr and Gladys (Metzger) Fisher.

Judy was a graduate of Wabash High School. She married Lyle R. "Tom Freeman" Etling in Wabash on June 21, 1959; he died Nov. 23, 2001. She was a homemaker. Judy enjoyed watching Bob Ross Painting and the Price is Right on television, and listening to country and gospel music.

She is survived by four children, Kevin (Rhonda) Etling of Wabash, Lisa (Greg Steed) Unger of Markle, Indiana, Patty Etling of Peru, Indiana, and Jenny (Tracy) White of Wabash, 14 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, brother, Bert (Lora) Brothers, Jr. of North Glenn, Colorado, sister, Jackie Smith, and her sister-in-law Dottie (Ken) Smith, both of Wabash. She was also preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with David Phillips officiating. Burial will be in Friends Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 4 – 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is Heart to Heart Hospice.

The memorial guest book for Judy may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Norman Bell

Sept. 25, 1938 – Feb. 6, 2020

Funeral Services for Norman Bell, 81, of Wabash, were 2 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 at the First United Methodist Church in Wabash. Pastor John Cook and Pastor Nathan Whybrew officiated and Susan Vanlandingham was the organist. Eulogy was offered by his daughter, Tammy Ford, and his granddaughters Casey Biel and Brooke Bell. Pallbearers were Dan Ford, Bobby Biel, Jared Boggs, Kent Mullett, Bryant Boggs, and Larry Kendall. Burial was in Falls Cemetery, Wabash. Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service was in charge of arrangements.

Governor Holcomb signs bill delaying penalties from new Indiana exam

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana schools and teachers won't face any penalties from lower student scores on the state's new ILEARN standardized exam under a proposal the governor signed Wednesday.

The bill signed by Gov. Eric Holcomb grants a two-year delay on schools receiving a lower A-F state rating based on scores from the 2019 or 2020 ILEARN exams. It also prevents the scores from being used in teacher evaluations, which are used in determining merit pay raises, unless the results would improve a teacher's performance rating.

Holcomb and Republican legislative leaders called for the delay in August before the new exam scores were even released to the public. The bill passed with unanimous support in both the House and Senate.

Holcomb says the delay will ensure that students, teachers and schools have the time they need to successfully adjust to the new exam.

Statewide results for the spring 2019 ILEARN exam show that 47.9 percent of students in grades 3-8 met or exceeded proficiency standards in language arts and 47.8 percent met or exceeded them in math. Those are both more than 10 percentage points lower than the passing rates in 2018 for the pass or fail ISTEP exam.

About 500,000 students took the new ILEARN test last spring after the Republican-dominated Legislature in 2017 ordered it as a replacement for the much-maligned ISTEP exams.

Price worries remain after judge OKs T-Mobile's Sprint deal

By TALI ARBEL
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — A federal judge has cleared a major path for T-Mobile to buy Sprint for $26.5 billion, citing T-Mobile's track record in promoting competition, even as legal scholars and consumer advocates warn about higher phone bills.

Judge Victor Marrero in New York said he believed the new T-Mobile would continue to compete aggressively with Verizon and AT&T, the industry giants whose size it now rivals. T-Mobile, the No. 3 U.S. phone company, has been known for such consumer-friendly, industry-shattering measures as abolishing two-year service contracts and restoring unlimited data plans.

Though the deal still needs a few more approvals, T-Mobile expects to close it as early as April 1.

T-Mobile has promised not to raise prices for three years and said "efficiencies" it gets from a more powerful network will translate to lower prices down the road. T-Mobile also argued that the combined T-Mobile and Sprint would be able to build a better next-generation, 5G cellular network than either company could alone.

But more than a dozen state attorneys general had sued to block the deal, saying one fewer phone company, even a smaller rival like Sprint, would cost Americans billions of dollars in higher bills. One of the leading parties, New York Attorney General Letitia James, said her office was considering an appeal. She said Tuesday's ruling "marks a loss for every American who relies on their cell phone."

"I'd be surprised in this case if consumers get anything out of it," said Cardozo law professor Sam Weinstein, a former Justice Department antitrust attorney.

Gigi Sohn, a former Federal Communications Commission adviser who is now a fellow at Georgetown's law school, said that while consumers are often promised benefits from mergers, "what they are left with each time are corporate behemoths" that can raise prices and destroy competition.

In the airline industry, there have been price increases and quality deterioration, like flight delays, on routes where carriers used to compete and then merged, said John Kwoka, an economics professor at Northeastern University.

He said that mergers that shrink an industry from four to three players "almost invariably result in price increases." He said that while economists used to be concerned that the government was challenging too many mergers, the more prevalent worry these days is about too much industry concentration.

Eleanor Fox, an antitrust expert at New York University's law school, said it was "quite strange" for the judge to accept the companies' argument that prices won't go up. Still, many U.S. economists do see mergers as positive for competition, she acknowledged, as they assume that markets operate better without government intervention.

T-Mobile launched its bid for Sprint in 2018, after having been rebuffed by Obama-era regulators. T-Mobile CEO John Legere had seen President Donald Trump's election and his appointed regulators as a good opportunity to try again to combine, according to evidence during the trial.

The deal already got the nod from both the Justice Department and the FCC, thanks to an unusual commitment to create a new wireless player in the satellite TV company Dish. T-Mobile agreed to sell millions of Sprint's prepaid customers to Dish. T-Mobile also has to rent its network to Dish while the fledgling rival built its own. Dish is also required to build a 5G network over the next several years.

Another judge still needs to approve the Dish settlement, a process that is usually straightforward but has taken longer than expected. A utility board in California also has to approve the merger.

Dish has spent about $21 billion over a decade buying wireless spectrum, the airwaves for transmitting data and calls, although Dish hasn't done much with it. Analysts have long been skeptical of whether Dish intends to build its own network or sell the spectrum to others. Now Dish faces up to $2.2 billion in fines if it fails to create a 5G network that serves 70 percent of the country by 2023.

George Slover, senior policy counsel for Consumer Reports, said Sprint was an established carrier with a track record of spurring competition, while Dish is an unproven newcomer that will have to build its mobile phone network and services from scratch.

But Marrero, the judge, said Sprint was "at best struggling to even tread water" and would not last as a national wireless competitor. He said Dish's entry into the market would be good for competition.

Sprint shares jumped 78 percent, T-Mobile rose 12 percent and Dish climbed 7 percent in trading Tuesday after the ruling came out. Verizon shares fell nearly 3 percent and AT&T was almost unchanged.

Attorneys general from New York and California led the case and were joined by Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.

T-Mobile, based in Bellevue, Washington, is owned by the German telecommunications company Deutsche Telekom. Sprint is based in Overland Park, Kansas, and is owned by Japan's SoftBank.

Esports league starts strong on ambitious global schedule

By JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — They stood, they cheered, they booed and they boozed. Turns out, esports fans in New York aren't much different from their traditional sports counterparts.

Packing a nearly 2,000-seat venue across the street from Madison Square Garden, those supporters validated the theory behind the Overwatch League's ambitious global vision.

"This event is everything we could have hoped for," said Jon Spector, vice president of the competitive video game circuit.

The OWL opened its third season last weekend with matches hosted by franchises in New York and Dallas, and everything about the sold-out shows looked like a payoff on its wager that a worldwide, city-based structure could propel it to the top of a blossoming industry.

Those festivities were the first of 52 scheduled events on the home-and-away calendar that will bring competitions to 20 arenas spanning Europe, North America and Asia. No professional league – esports or otherwise – has taken on such an arduous regular-season schedule.

While many fans are concerned about the welfare of players – some still teenagers – the league believes it has taken appropriate actions to prevent burnout for the stars of its 6 vs. 6, first-person shooter computer game, who earn over $100,000 per season on average.

Of course, the OWL still readily admits this globe-trotting adventure is an ongoing experiment.

"All 52 won't be perfect," Spector said.

At the Hammerstein Ballroom in Midtown Manhattan, the endeavor's upside was apparent. Fans spent well over $100 for two-day passes and came out in force for doubleheader matches Saturday and Sunday. Four teams – New York, Boston, London and Paris – took turns squaring off, and fans had the venue nearly filled even for the undercards.

It felt like a typical, rowdy sports crowd – decked out in team gear from the on-site merchandise stand, waiting in line for pizza and beer during lulls in the action, and ruthlessly jeering the rival Boston Uprising at every opportunity.

"The audience has always been here," said Farzam Kamel, co-founder and president of Andbox, which manages the New York Excelsior.

Blizzard Entertainment hoped exactly that when it sought to give the global esports phenomenon a geographic twist. While other esports, like the decade-old League of Legends pro circuit, have thrived with rootless franchises, Blizzard-backed OWL thinks the future of the industry involves bringing live events to invested parties throughout the year.

After hosting nearly all its matches in seasons 1 and 2 at a facility near Los Angeles, Blizzard is starting its city-based experiment in earnest this year. Each franchise is set to host between two and five weekends of competition during a 26-week regular season that runs through early August.

It's coming just in time for a league lagging behind competitors in total viewers. OWL's Grand Finals averaged 1.12 million viewers globally in 2019, far behind the 21.8 million average audience for League of Legends World Championship, according to Nielsen. By comparison, Game 7 of last year's World Series averaged 23.2 million viewers in the U.S., and the Super Bowl drew 112.7 million.

OWL fans have expressed concern recently about signs the league's momentum is slowing, including an exodus by much of its popular on-air talent. Most troubling was misguided speculation that travel plans might require players to log nearly twice as many miles as traditional American sports athletes, worrying fans about the plan's viability.

The league strongly disputed those calculations and believes its been strategic enough about its schedule to keep players fresh.

Rather than forcing teams to ping-pong around the globe, OWL stacked the schedules by territory. For instance, the Paris Eternal will open with nearly two months on the U.S. East Coast, save for a weekend in Houston. They'll split the middle of the season mostly in Europe, then close out with a four-week trip through China. Those legs will be peppered with bye weeks, especially before and after the longest trips.

"Travel is inherently a part of a global league like the one we've designed," Commissioner Pete Vlastelica said. "We've done a lot of work to make sure the burden of that travel is kept to an absolute minimum."

The total mileage isn't as extreme as fans feared. The league projects Paris' team to cover 52,000 miles, compared to approximately 40,000 miles per season for an NBA franchise. But it is more time on the road.

Paris had players report to team housing in New Jersey in mid-January, and it will use that as a base for the early part of the season. They'll get similar setups during swings through Europe and Asia.

"It reduces the travel time," Paris VP of Esports Derrick Truong said. "It allows us to be able to practice longer than other teams traveling from far away."

The league had already lost players to burnout in previous seasons, when homesickness was an issue for its largely international player pool but travel weariness wasn't. Players expect to be tested this year.

"There are things like jet leg and traveling a lot; it's physically hard," said TaeHoon "Fuze" Kim, a player for London, which is also starting the season in New Jersey. "But because traveling and experiencing other cities are all fun to me, I don't really mind it."

There has already been a major complicating wrinkle, too. Early season matches in the OWL's four Chinese cities had to be postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. Makeup dates and locations have not yet been announced.

Blizzard is concurrently launching a similar global schedule with its first-year Call of Duty League, and it anticipates learning quite a bit between the two circuits.

If it does work, it could have a rippling influence well beyond esports. North America's big four professional sports leagues have all hosted games abroad in recent years, and full-time expansion to Europe or Asia would surely be appealing to many owners and international fans. If the gamers can show it's possible, leagues like the NFL, NBA and others might borrow from their playbook as they follow suit.

For all this jet setting, OWL certainly wouldn't mind being remembered for trend-setting.

"I've been saying this is sort of the starting line for us," Vlastelica said. "This is the year we're going to do the thing that we've designed."

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

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To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

DAILY SCRIPTURE

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.
- Psalm 42:11

DOJ credibility sinks like a Stone

President Donald Trump has exposed his pliable Attorney General William Barr as a willing tool in politicizing the Justice Department.

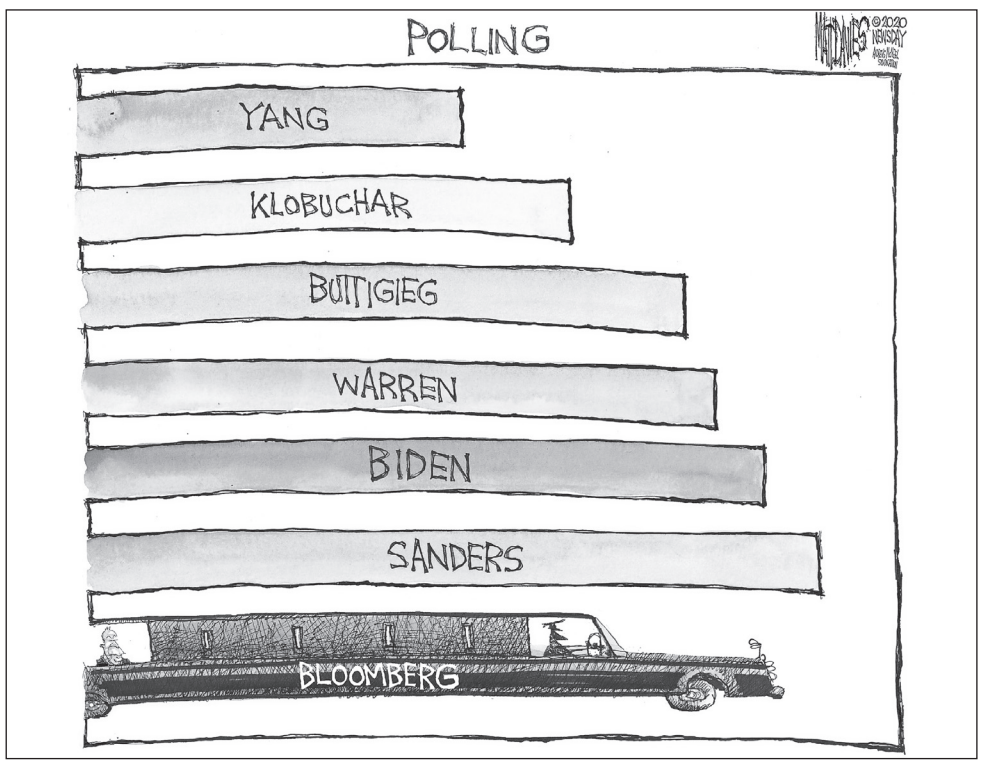
In a swirl of controversy that is still unfolding, Trump succeeded in having the DOJ reverse a tough sentencing recommendation for Roger Stone, the dirty trickster who played a key role in Trump's 2016 campaign. As a result, four respected career prosecutors, who won a conviction against Stone for thwarting the investigations into Trump's campaign by Congress and the FBI, withdrew from the case. Two resigned outright. This is an ominous development and should be seen as a flashing alert to the nation.

Trump made known his displeasure with the sentencing recommendation of 7 to 9 years in prison, via Twitter on Monday night. On Tuesday, he escalated his condemnation: "I thought the recommendation was ridiculous. I thought the whole prosecution was ridiculous," Trump said. He asserted that he has "absolute" power to dictate what the Justice Department does, but that "I have not been involved in it at all."

That's just not believable.

The quickest way to expose the truth is for U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson, who is presiding over the case, to put the four prosecutors and other top Justice Department officials on the witness stand and demand that they tell the nation what's going on.

This editorial was first published in Newsday.



Our presidential nomination process suffers from 'democracy fundamentalism'

George Will



In 1964, an optimistic theory was slain, as such theories often are, by reality. Bernie Sanders' supporters should take note. So should all who are interested in rethinking how the parties choose presidential nominees.

The "conservatives in the woodwork" theory was: Millions of conservatives, bored by centrist presidential candidates, skipped elections but would pour out of the woodwork and into polling places if offered "a choice, not an echo." So, conservative Republicans achieved the nomination of Barry Goldwater, who then lost 44 states, partly because those swarms of nonvoting conservatives were mostly fictitious. A conservative majority had to be patiently made, which took 16 years.

Goldwater understood that after President Kennedy's assassination a distraught nation would not choose to have a third president in 14 months. But he also thought that his candidacy could make his party markedly more conservative. If Sanders has a "socialists in the woodwork" theory, he is daft. But some Sanders supporters might think a second Donald Trump term is an acceptable price to pay for a Sanders nomination that moves his party as dramatically leftward as Goldwater's nomination moved his party rightward.

The nation, however, needs a nominating process that minimizes the probability of kamikaze candidacies and maximizes the probability of selecting plausible presidents. Hence it needs a retreat from the populist idea that the voice of the people is easy to ascertain and should be translated, unmediated and unrefined, directly into nominee selection. Populism has been embraced by both parties since 1968, when Hubert Humphrey won the Democrats' nomination without entering any primaries. (Although a switch of about 300,000 November votes spread over four states would have made him president.)

In 1972, Democrats made their process more plebiscitary – more primaries, less influence for political professionals – in order to elicit and echo the vox populi. This, however, produced a nominee favored by the party's most intense minority, the anti-Vietnam war cohort: South Dakota Sen. George McGovern lost 49 states. Twelve presidential election cycles later, both parties are still uncomfortably holding the populist wolf by the ears.

Political scientist Raymond J. La Raja and Jonathan Rauch of the Brookings Institution recommend a recalibration. They do not favor what political realities would not permit – abandoning primaries (La Raja and Rauch prefer them to caucuses, which are more susceptible to capture by the elderly and those "for whom politics is a passion"). Rather, they recommend leavening mass participation with vetting by professionals – "political careerists with skin in the game" serving as gatekeepers or quality-control evaluators of candidates before the primaries begin. "In 2018, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee worked aggressively to weed out weak and extreme candidates in swing districts."

Doing something similar in presidential politics is difficult. The process has no gatekeepers: Remember the 2012 cycle, when Herman Cain had his 15 minutes as a front-runner? Misguided campaign finance regulations have diverted money away from experienced parties to unseasoned groups with minority agendas. The 2016 process illustrated the difficulty of aggregating voters' preferences when there are many candidates: A demagogic charlatan won without winning a majority of primary votes until after the nomination was effectively settled. Sanders' success so far this year demonstrates La Raja and Rauch's warning that in a congested field of candidates, many will shun coalition-building in favor of wooing purists.

In 1924, the parties' professionals blocked the presidential ambitions of industrialist Henry Ford, a racist and anti-Semite. In 1976, Democratic insiders helped clear the field in Florida's presidential primary to enable Jimmy Carter to end the candidacy of the racist George Wallace. Today, however, the power of party professionals is negligible compared to that of the media. They prefer flamboyant political showhorses to transactional, coalition-building workhorses, and become accomplices of fringe candidates and combative amateurs.

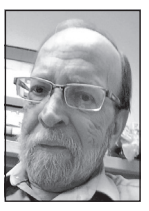
La Raja and Rauch suggest various "filters" by political professionals to mitigate the "democracy fundamentalism" of today's nomination process: e.g., more political professionals as "superdelegates" eligible to vote on conventions' first ballots; pre-primary votes of confidence in candidates by members of Congress and governors; "abolishing or dramatically increasing" contribution limits to the parties. But a precondition for all improvement is, they acknowledge, "to change the mindset that regards popular elections as the only acceptable way to choose nominees."

Limiting and influencing voters' choices by involving professional politicians early in the nomination process would require risk-averse political professionals to go against today's populist sensibility. But if this November the choice is between Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, the professionals might consider letting go of the wolf's ears.

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

A job well done

Leo Morris



Bob Vollmer is my new hero.

He is retiring from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources because, he says, his body is telling him it's time to go. His job requires a lot of physical effort: "I mean, climb the hills, fight the elements in the woods," he told NPR. "It's pretty rough, being tangled in vines, poison ivy, all kinds of things that you really have to be careful with, you know. I've worn my legs out."

He's 102. That makes him not just the oldest state employee, but the oldest in Indiana's history.

Bet he's had to put up with a lot of fool questions over the years from people wondering why he stayed around so long. I can relate.

I hung it up a couple of years ago, nowhere near the record set by Vollmer but still after the "official retirement date" had come and gone.

My brother, who had retired early from his computer career to write science fiction novels, thought I was being foolish. My sister, who had come to loathe the political machinations of her workplace and was counting down the days, thought I was out of my mind.

Why did I cling to work?

It was certainly a fair question. I was in newspapers, after all, the most gravely ill component of the dying print industry. Just going to the office was becoming almost unbearably sad, always another empty desk, another desperate management plan to do more with fewer people.

The best answer I could come up with was that I was good at what I did and still enjoyed doing it. That was true but not quite the whole story, I realize now that I've had some time to think about it.

The first job I had with a regular paycheck was as an usher at the old Jefferson Theater, where the convention center in downtown Fort Wayne now stands, when I was a sophomore in high school. I still remember looking in awe at those pitiful few first-pay dollars clutched in my hand.

There are certain moments in life when you realize you have crossed an important threshold, taken a first step everyone has to take that it was now your turn for. Having money in my pocket that I had earned was such a moment for me.

It was winter, so the first thing I did was buy small Christmas presents for everyone in my family. They were the first presents that were truly from me – not pretend presents for which my parents had actually provided the money to purchase.

Work, I understood from that first paycheck, was my entry to the world beyond my childhood. It was my connection to other people, the way I would fit into the larger puzzle, the path I could choose to assert my autonomy and define its trajectory.

Work would give me purpose. I just had to determine what that purpose would be. Ironically, it was that same year when a friend talked me into writing for our high school newspaper.

I had always written, something I turned to as a child confined too often indoors by bouts of asthma. I knew that writing would be a big part of my future, but had never considered what shape that future might take. But the minute I saw my byline on a silly, five-paragraph story (about a meeting of the Spanish Club) in the Central High School Spotlight, I was hooked.

I found my purpose. And then dedicated myself for more than 40 years to the mission of local newspapers to inform and entertain their readers and bind them together with a sense of community. That sense of community is fraying these days, and the death of newspapers is one of the reasons why. I think we will miss them when they are gone.

One of my favorite books is the very short "A Mathematician's Apology" by G.H. Hardy. In it, he says there are two criteria to use when deciding on a choice for a life's work.

The first is that it should make use of whatever skill or talent you are best at. Not what you can do better than a certain number of people – whatever it is, there will always be people better than you and worse than you. Do what you do better than you do anything else – then, the more you do it, the better you will become and the more you will love it.

The second is that it should have some worth in the overall scheme of things. It should matter to humanity that the job is done and done well. Then the work you do will fulfill you and have value for others.

That's the rest of the story, then. I kept at my job because I liked it, I was good at it, and it mattered. I had a purpose.

I doubt if Bob Vollmer ever read that book or one like it. On the other hand, he could probably write it himself. I can see him on his last days at work, walking the hills, dodging vines and swatting mosquitoes and cursing the weak legs that finally gave out on him.

At his retirement dinner – they should give him the biggest one the state has ever seen – they should forgo all the accolades and just tell him what he deserves to hear: Good job.

Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at leoedits@yahoo.com.

HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Feb. 13, the 44th day of 2020. There are 322 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Feb. 13, 1945, during World War II, Allied planes began bombing the German city of Dresden. The Soviets captured Budapest, Hungary, from the Germans.

On this date:

In 1633, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei arrived in Rome for trial before the Inquisition, accused of defending Copernican theory that the Earth revolved around the sun instead of the other way around. (Galileo was found vehemently suspect of heresy and ended up being sentenced to a form of house arrest.)

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was officially declared winner of the 1860 presidential election as electors cast their ballots.

In 1935, a jury in Flemington, New Jersey, found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.)

Food

Sunday night Ma Po Tofu

By LYNDA BALSLEY

This recipe is not entirely authentic. I prefer to call it an improvised Ma Po Tofu, because when the craving strikes for this spicy, satisfying Asian soup, but it happens to be a Sunday night in the dead of winter and you happen to be in your P.J.'s, it's time to dig deep and improvise.

This happened to me recently, when I turned to a David Tanis recipe in The New York Times as a template. I didn't have all of the ingredients, so I winged it with what I happened to have stashed in my refrigerator, plus extra smidges of this and that to ramp up the flavor and spice to my taste.

You can do this, too, if you are properly prepared. So, with this in mind – and in preparation for any future pajama-clad cravings you may experience – I am here to suggest investing in a few Asian staples to add to your pantry. These are the critical "this and that" condiments that will tip a dish to crave-sating deliciousness, the obscure secret ingredients that add lip-smacking flavor to many spicy and savory dishes, Asian or otherwise. They also have a conveniently long shelf life, so you can tuck them into the back of your cabinet or fridge and forget about them until the need arises or craving strikes.

The first condiment I recommend purchasing is gojuchang. It's a Korean fermented hot chili paste, which adds a smoky kick of heat, mild glutinous-rice sweetness, and that elusive umami flavor to sauces, marinades and soups, making them positively addicting. The next condiment is fermented black bean and garlic sauce, which has a murky, almost meaty quality that adds depth and savory flavor to stir-fries and marinades.

And, while we are on the subject of must-haves, another ingredient I highly recommend (that is not needed in this recipe, but you're going to the store anyway) is miso paste. A dab of this fermented soybean paste adds salty, savory, umami flavor to broths, sauces, marinades, even sweets – think miso-salted caramel. All of these staples can be found in the international section of many well-stocked supermarkets or in Asian specialty stores and can be stored in your refrigerator for up to one year.

And since we are talking about cravings, I will add that once all of the ingredients are assembled for this soup recipe, you can whip it up in a matter of minutes, which is a boon to instant gratification.

Ma Po Tofu

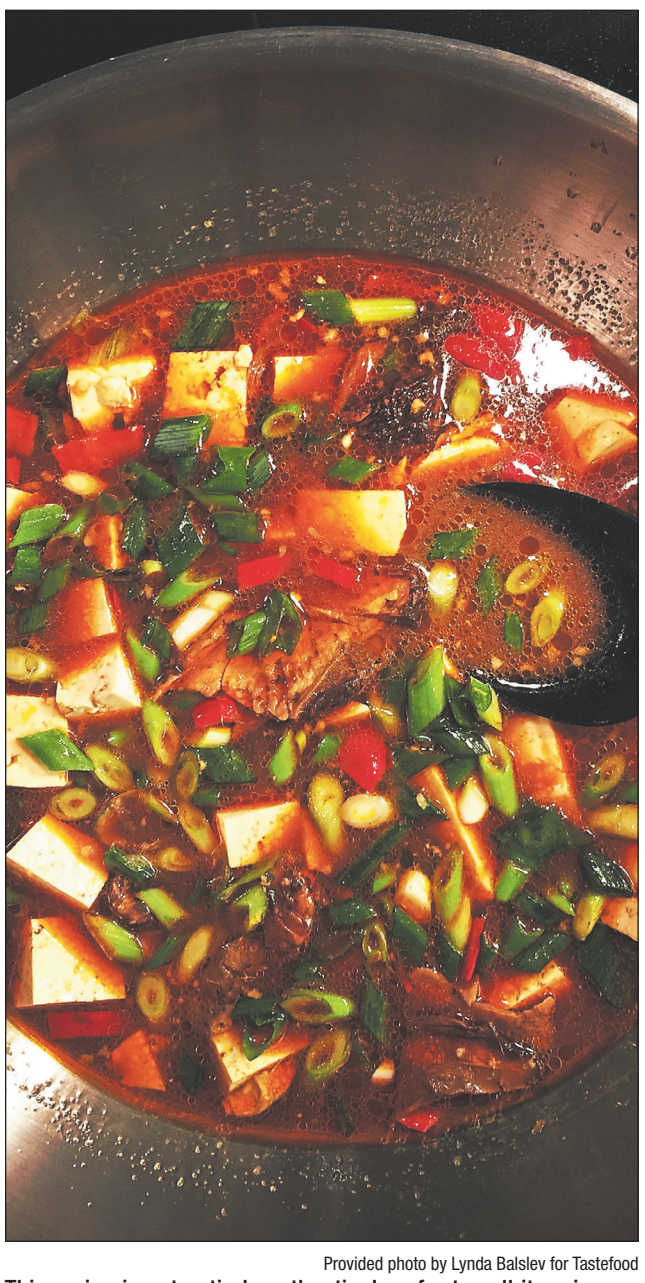
Active Time: 10 minutes
Total Time: 25 minutes
Yield: Serves 2 to 4

- 1 ounce dried Porcini mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1 large red jalapeno chile, seeded, chopped
- 2 tablespoons fermented hot chili paste, such as gojuchang
- 1 tablespoon fermented black bean and garlic sauce
- 2 tablespoons grated fresh peeled ginger
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1 cup plus 3 tablespoons chicken or mushroom stock
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce or tamari
- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil
- 15 ounces semi-firm tofu, patted dry, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 to 2 teaspoons sugar, optional
- 4 scallions, white and green parts thinly sliced

Bring 1 1/2 cups water to a simmer in a small saucepan. Turn off the heat, add the mushrooms, and let steep for 15 minutes.

Heat the oil in a skillet or wok over medium-high heat. Add the chile, chili paste and black bean sauce and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the ginger and garlic and saute until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the mushrooms and cooking water to the wok. Stir in 1 cup stock, soy sauce and sesame oil.

Slide the tofu into the soup and reduce the heat to medium. Whisk the 1 tablespoon cornstarch with the 3 tablespoons stock and add to the soup, and cook until the soup is hot. Taste for seasoning, and add sugar if desired. Stir in the scallions. Serve hot.



Provided photo by Lynda Balslev for Tastefood

This recipe is not entirely authentic. I prefer to call it an improvised Ma Po Tofu, because when the craving strikes for this spicy, satisfying Asian soup, but it happens to be a Sunday night in the dead of winter and you happen to be in your P.J.'s, it's time to dig deep and improvise.

Four way hummus

By SHARON PALMER



Provided photos

Hummus has gone from eclectic Middle Eastern fare to classic American comfort food.



Let a basic four ingredient chickpea hummus guide you down the path to other easy hummus recipes.



Just start with this Classic Hummus, then add a few extra ingredients to create a Smoky Pumpkin Hummus, Avocado Cilantro Hummus and Olive Sun-Dried Tomato Hummus.

Let a basic four ingredient chickpea hummus guide you down the path to other easy hummus recipes. Just start with this Classic Hummus, then add a few extra ingredients to create a Smoky Pumpkin Hummus, Avocado Cilantro Hummus and Olive Sun-Dried Tomato Hummus. The cancer-fighting benefits of pulses only add to the delicious advantages of this Four Way Hummus recipe.

Hummus has gone from eclectic Middle Eastern fare to classic American comfort food. We just can't go a day without this creamy, flavorful dip, it seems. And it's a good thing, as this chickpea-based spread is as healthful as it is delicious.

Classic Hummus – Starter Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 15-ounce can Chickpeas (garbanzo beans), with liquid
- 2 Garlic cloves
- 2 Tbsp. Lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp. tahini (sesame seed paste)
- 1/4 tsp. Ground black pepper
- 1 Tbsp. Extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Pinch Salt (optional)

Makes 8 servings. Per serving: 89 calories, 3 g total fat (0 g saturated fat), 13 g carbohydrates, 3 g protein, 3 g dietary fiber, 160 mg sodium.

Directions

Drain the chickpeas, reserving the liquid. Put the beans into a blender or food processor.

Add the garlic, lemon juice, tahini, black pepper, and olive oil, as well as about half of the reserved bean liquid.

Puree the bean mixture, adding additional bean liquid as necessary to produce a smooth, very thick, creamy dip. Season with salt, if desired.

Pour the bean dip into a serving dish.

Optional: garnish with additional chickpeas, a drizzle of olive oil and sprinkle of black pepper.

Smoky Pumpkin Hummus

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup Pumpkin, canned or cooked, pureed
- 1 tsp Cumin seeds
- 1/2 tsp Smoked paprika
- 1 tbsp Pumpkin seeds

Makes 8 servings. Per serving: 124 calories, 5 g total fat (1 g saturated fat), 16 g carbohydrates, 5 g protein, 4 g dietary fiber, 44 mg sodium, 3 g sugar.

Directions

Prepare classic hummus according to directions 1-2 in the recipe.

Add the pumpkin, cumin seeds, smoked paprika and enough bean liquid to make a smooth, very thick, creamy dip.

Pour the bean dip into a serving dish.

Garnish with a drizzle of olive oil and sprinkle of smoked paprika, and pumpkin seeds.

Avocado Cilantro Hummus

Ingredients

- 1 Lemon, zested
- 1 small Jalapeno pepper, quartered
- 1 tbsp Fresh cilantro
- 1 small Avocado

Makes 8 servings. Per serving: 142 calories, 8 g total fat (1 g saturated fat), 16 g carbohydrates, 4 g protein, 4 g dietary fiber, 162 mg sodium, 0 g sugar.

Directions

Prepare classic hummus according to directions 1-2 in the recipe.

Add the lemon zest, jalapeno, and cilantro to the blender or processor.

Slice the avocado in half, remove the pit, and scoop out the flesh into the blender or processor.

Puree the mixture, adding enough reserved bean liquid as necessary to produce a smooth, very thick, creamy dip.

Pour the bean dip into a serving dish.

Optional: garnish with a drizzle of olive oil, additional fresh cilantro, and paprika.

Olive Sun-Dried Tomato Hummus

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup Kalamata olives, pitted, drained
- 1/3 cup Sun-dried tomatoes, sliced
- 1 tsp Dried basil

Makes 8 servings. Per serving: 113 calories, 5 g total fat (1 g saturated fat), 15 g carbohydrates, 4 g protein, 3 g dietary fiber, 255 mg sodium, 1 g sugar.

Directions

Prepare classic hummus according to directions 1-2 in the recipe.

Add the kalamata olives, sun-dried tomatoes, and basil to the blender or food processor.

Puree the mixture, adding reserved bean liquid as necessary to produce a smooth, very thick, creamy dip.

Pour the dip into a serving dish.

Optional: garnish with additional olive oil, kalamata olives, sun-dried tomatoes, and black pepper.

Tips

To serve hummus as an appetizer, place a small serving dish of garnished hummus in the center of a platter. Arrange triangles of whole wheat pita bread and pieces of fresh raw vegetables, such as carrots, celery, bell peppers, mushrooms, asparagus, broccoli, and snow peas, on the platter.

Sharon Palmer, MSFS, RDN, The Plant-Powered Dietitian, is a plant-based food and nutrition expert, journalist, and blogger.

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Missteps lead publishing industry to review diversity effort

By HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As debate rages around "American Dirt," the bestselling novel criticized for its portrait of Mexican life and culture, publishers are pledging to change a historically white industry as critics question whether it can truly transform.

Diversity has been an issue in publishing for years, but perhaps never so urgently as in the past few weeks, when Mexican American authors and others have cited "American Dirt" as evidence of a publishing culture where white voices are valued above others. Critics say flaws in Jeanine Cummins' narrative about a Mexican mother and son fleeing to the U.S. were overlooked by the book's editorial and promotional team and the many writers and booksellers who were early advocates.

"Of course, we've had a lot of conversations, looking at diversity and ways – as we always do – to address the recruitment and publishing of Latinos," says John Sargent, CEO of Macmillan, which released Cummins' novel last month through its Flatiron Books division.

Marketed in part as a new "Grapes of Wrath," the John Steinbeck novel which helped define the Great Depression, "American Dirt" was lauded by an industry that is predominantly white, liberal, anxious to make a profit and eager to make a difference. A book that Cummins and Flatiron had thought would personalize the experience of immigration instead became an example to some of its own distance from the issue.

Publishing executives and editors often shy away from discussing diversity on the record, but Flatiron president and publisher Bob Miller bluntly acknowledged they had not anticipated the "anger that has emerged from members of the Latinx and publishing communities."

"The fact that we were surprised is indicative of a problem, which is that in positioning this novel, we failed to acknowledge our own limits," Miller wrote in a recent press statement.

According to a new study by the multicultural children's publisher Lee & Low, the industry is around 75 percent white, and mostly female. No publisher who spoke to The Associated Press disputed those numbers, which were roughly the same as those in a Lee & Low survey released four years earlier.

"Even though there may be more awareness of diversity issues, the numbers on the industry side aren't really changing," says Lee & Low publisher Jason Low. "It's still a very homogeneous industry, especially in some of the executive and gatekeeping roles."

CEOs including Sargent, Michael Pietsch of Hachette Book Group and Carolyn Reidy of Simon & Schuster say longtime barriers to diversity in publishing include the self-reinforcing networks of a historically white, upper-class industry, and the stress of being the only non-white member in a room. The industry's low salaries, "often from $36,000-$40,000 in one of the world's most expensive cities, can also make it hard to retain good people.

"They don't necessarily see a career path. They can get burned out and a little exhausted," says Nicole Johnson, executive director of the activist organization WeNeedDiverseBooks.

Jennifer Baker, an author and editor who in 2014 created the "Minorities in Publishing" podcast, says the book world faces structural issues common to a wide range of industries. Asked if she had seen signs of progress in publishing, she said she saw "no clear pathway to correction, adding that "Bottom line," there won't be "sustainable change" without fully taking on the system itself.

Several publishing executives agreed on a rough outline of industry demographics: Entry level positions, notably in publicity and marketing, are the most diverse, while high-level editorial jobs are more white; employees under 40 are more diverse than those over 40; those who work in children's publishing are more diverse than those in adult books divisions.

"Children's librarians and educators have been at the forefront of urging publishers to diversify the books we offer," Pietsch says.

All of the so-called "Big Five" publishers – Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster, Hachette, Macmillan and HarperCollins – have for years had diversity efforts, including internships and outreach programs, and in-house initiatives like mentoring and requirements that all job openings include a diverse range of candidates.

In 2019, Penguin Random House announced a "Strategy Plan" with goals including the diversification of employees and a more inclusive work culture. But the publisher faced its own embarrassment last week. It had collaborated with Barnes & Noble on "diverse" editions of such classic literature as "Frankenstein," "The Wizard of Oz" and "Romeo and Juliet" to honor Black History Month, which takes place in February. The covers featured illustrations of the main characters with dark skin, while the texts, mostly by and about white people, were left the same. After widespread criticism online, with many wondering why the publisher and Barnes & Noble didn't simply promote writers of color, the program was canceled.

"These recent events underscore the critical importance of the work we have to continue to do together," says Penguin Random House US CEO Madeline McIntosh, adding that the publisher would "recommit" to a "full range of perspectives, experience, and expertise."

Earlier this week, Myriam Gurba, David Bowles and other prominent critics of "American Dirt" met with Flatiron executives. In a press release issued after the meeting, the writers – members of the activist group #DignidadLiteraria – said Macmillan had committed to developing an "action plan" within 90 days. Sargent declined to offer details but confirmed there was "an agreed upon effort" to address diversity.

Imprints dedicated to diverse voices have been around for decades and continue to be formed, among them One World at Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster's 37 Ink. HarperCollins imprints include Amistad Press, one of the country's oldest African American publishers; and the Native-focused Heartdrum, scheduled to begin in 2021.

Amistad's editorial director, Tracy Sherrod, says she hopes to publish around 20-24 books this year, double what Amistad was releasing when she joined it eight years ago. Amistad's books range from Jacqueline Woodson's novel "Another Brooklyn" to Jennifer Lewis' memoir "The Mother of Black Hollywood."

"I first came into publishing in the 1980s and at that time it was believed that black people didn't read. That statement was made to me multiple times, so we've come a long way, a long way baby," she said with a laugh. "We're growing as an industry, but there will be some growing pains."

Samsung's new foldable phone: Cheaper, but still a novelty

By RACHEL LERMAN and KELVIN CHAN
AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO — Samsung on Tuesday unveiled a new foldable phone, the Galaxy Z Flip, its second attempt to sell consumers on phones with bendable screens and clamshell designs.

The new phone can unfold from a small square upward into a traditional smartphone form, and will go on sale Feb. 14 starting at $1,380. The company announced the phone at a product event in San Francisco.

Samsung's first foldable phone, the Galaxy Fold, finally went on sale last September after delays and reports of screens breaking. The Fold, which carries a price tag of nearly $2,000, folds at a vertical crease rather than horizontally as a flip-phone design would. Motorola has also taken the flip-phone approach with its new $1,500 Razr phone.

The foldable phones represent manufacturers' attempt to energize a market where sales have slowed. Many consumers are holding onto old phones longer, in part because new phone features offer increasingly marginal benefits. But these foldable models come with higher price tags and are likely to appeal for now mostly to tech enthusiasts and others at the forefront of technology.

"While there's a lot of excitement around this new category, it is still early days and they will evolve significantly." said Paolo Pescatore, an analyst at PP Foresight. "While these innovative new designs are nice to have, they're not must-have, sought-after features among users."

The Z Flip can stay open at different angles for use watching videos or taking photos. When the phone is closed, it will take selfies and display notifications in a small window on the cover. Unfolded, its screen measures 6.7 inches diagonally.

Samsung says it added fibers to the gap between the hinge and the phone to keep out dust and improve hinge function, likely to address shortcomings of the Galaxy Fold.

On the more traditional front, Samsung offers its S series. In a nod to the start of the 2020s, the South Korean company showed off the Galaxy S20, S20 Plus and S20 Ultra, skipping directly to the S20 from its previous S10 series.

The S20 phones are designed to take high-quality pictures in dark settings, Samsung product manager Mark Holloway said. The phones can take both video and photos at the same time, using artificial intelligence to zero in on the best moments to capture the still images.

PULSE

From page A1

to be below 0 degrees or the heat index is reported to be 100 degrees. To learn how you can help, call Ryan Wagner at 260-563-4475.

Valentine potluck lunch scheduled

Join the Annual Valentine Exchange and Luncheon at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. Pre-registration is required. The lunch reservation deadline is at noon Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Laketon American Legion Auxiliary plans Valentine's Day dinner

The Laketon American Legion Auxiliary has planned a special Valentine's Day dinner for 4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 at 15 N. Main St., Laketon. There will be a choice of prime rib or shrimp, potato, salad, dessert, drink and flower for the ladies for $12.50. Advance tickets and carry-outs are available. For more information, call 260-306-0162.

Wabash Kiwanis Club's 100th Anniversary Gala planned

The gala will begin with a social hour from 6 to 7 p.m., with the dinner and programs set for 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at the Honeywell Center's Legacy Hall. For those who can't attend the gala, financial donations of any size for Riley Hospital by individuals, businesses and organizations are also welcomed and appreciated. Checks can be mailed to the Wabash Kiwanis Club at P.O. Box 699, Wabash, IN 46992 with "Riley" in the memo line.

MSD to host community presentation Feb. 17

MSD of Wabash County will be hosting a Community Presentation to share updates on their Strategic Plan at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17 at Northfield Jr./Sr. High School, 154 W. 200 North.

'Ask a Teenager Tech Basics class scheduled

"Ask a Teenager" Tech Basics: 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18 at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond Str. Sign up requested by calling 260-563-4475. Bring your electronic devices and your questions, assistance provided by Heartland Career Center Tech students.

Honeywell Foundation's annual art competition open

The Honeywell Foundation's Clark Gallery will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show through Wednesday, Feb. 19. A public reception for this event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19. For more information, contact Michele Hughes at mhughes@HoneywellFoundation.org or call the Honeywell Center Box Office at 260-563-1102.

Experience Mardi Gras, Wabash-style

From 12:30 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. Featuring Mentalist Chad Collyer, king cake, masks, beads, games and prizes. The 2020 Mardi Gras King and Queen will be announced.

Career Closet donations sought

Donations for the Career Closet will be collected through Friday, Feb. 21. Manchester University will accept gently used professional or business casual clothing and accessories. This event helps students who are not financially able to purchase professional clothing be able to dress appropriately when talking with employers and programs. Donations may be brought to Room 103 of the Chinworth Center on the North Manchester campus or Sarah Lauck at the Fort Wayne campus.

Manchester hosts Polar Plunge to aid Special Olympics

Manchester invites residents of Wabash and Kosciusko counties to Freezin' for a Reason on Saturday, Feb. 22 outside the Physical Education and Recreation Center (PERC). Team members can sign up as participants, which means they jump in the water, or "virtual plungers," who raise money but do not get wet. To register, visit https://www.firstgiving.com/event/soindiana/Polar-Plunge-North-Manchester. Events begin at 10 a.m. with sign-ups and welcome, followed by costume judging at noon. The water portion is 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., with the After-Splash Bash lunch at 1:30 p.m.

MSD to host community presentation Feb. 27

MSD of Wabash County will be hosting a Community Presentation to share updates on their Strategic Plan at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27 at Southwood Jr./Sr. High School, 564 Indiana 124.

Manchester hosts Spartan Smash high school eSports tourney

High school teams across the Midwest are invited to the Spartan Smash Invitational, a first-time eSports competition, set for Saturday, Feb. 29, on the North Manchester campus of Manchester University. Registration will close at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28. The tournament bracket will be made available that Saturday morning. Competition is in Flory Auditorium at the Science Center. For more information and registration, visit https://smash.gg/tournament/spartan-smash-invitational.

Employers invited to register for Manchester Career Fair

Employers are invited to meet students at the Manchester University career, internship and graduate school fair from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at the upper level of the Jo Young Switzer Center on the North Manchester campus. Setup begins at 11:30 p.m. with lunch and informal networking. Each employer registered will receive a covered 6-foot table and two chairs. The cost to register is $40 to $50, depending on the type of employer. Fair sponsorship is also available for $150.

For more information and to register, visit http://bit.ly/MUCareerFair2020. Employers with questions may email CareerDevelopment@manchester.edu.

'Death by Chocolate' tickets on sale

The Wabash Area Community Theater's winter comedy "Death by Chocolate" will open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7; and doors will open at noon and dinner is at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8 at the Charley Creek Inn. Tickets are on sale now at the Charley Creek Inn reception desk. For more information, call Bruce Rovelstad at 260-330-0543 or Bev Vanderpool at 765-661-8206.

Salute to Ag Dinner to honor 2019 Farm Family of the Year

Grow Wabash County and the Salute to Ag committee have announced that Steve Flack and his family have been selected as the 2019 Farm Family of the Year. They will be recognized for their contributions to the Wabash County agriculture industry during Grow Wabash County's annual Salute to Ag Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11 at the Heartland REMC, 350 Wedcor Ave. Tickets are $20 each and sponsorship opportunities are available ranging from $100 up to $2,500. Registration may be completed by visiting growwabashcounty.com/events, by emailing info@growwabashcounty.com or calling 260-563-5258.

Komets game to celebrate Wabash County March 13

Wabash County will be the MVP during the third annual Wabash County Night at the Fort Wayne Komets game at 8:05 p.m. Friday, March 13 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. While supplies last, tickets can be bought for $15 per ticket at https://groupmatics.events/event/Wabashcommunity3 or by emailing Mitch Meinholz at mitch@komets.com or by calling 260-482-6812.

Adult mental Health First Aid training planned

Purdue Extension program set for Tuesday, March 17

Purdue Extension will offer Adult Mental Health First Aid training from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17 at the Wabash REMC Community Room, 350 Wedcor Ave. The Mental Health First Aid program is open to any adult. For more information, visit www.extension.purdue.edu/mhfa or contact Mindy Mayes by email at mayes7@purdue.edu or by phone at 260-663-0661 ext. 1408.

St. Trolley's Day Tour on sale Feb. 14

Visit Wabash County has announced that tickets for the St. Trolley's Day Tour happening on March 14 will be available for purchase beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14. Tour times offered are 6, 6:30 or 7 p.m. and will last about two hours. The St. Trolley's Day Tour is $25 per person and all-inclusive. To register for this tour, visit www.VisitWabashCounty.com and click on Tours/Trolley Rental. You may also stop in the Welcome Center at 221 S. Miami St., or call 260-563-7171. Tickets are $25 per person and is due upon registration. You must be 21 or older to participate in this tour.

Wabash Kiwanis Club's Pancake Day returns in March

The Wabash Kiwanis Club will once again host its annual Pancake Day, which is the local service organization's largest annual fundraiser. The event will take place from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue. Tickets will be $8 at the door and $7 in advance for those ages 13 years and older, and $5 at the door and $4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12 years. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 years and younger.

NMCH to host Smithsonian traveling exhibit

The North Manchester Center for History will be hosting the Smithsonian's traveling exhibit, "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" from March 21 to May 3.

Manchester invites high school students to submit compositions

The Manchester University Department of Music seeks high school composers for its first Composition Workshop and Reading Session on Wednesday, April 8. They are invited to submit original compositions to be performed and recorded by Manchester University faculty musicians. The deadline is March 23. Send submissions to Reed at tmreed@manchester.edu. Submissions should include a score (PDF or Finale file); contact information with name, phone number and mailing address; and name of high school currently attending. There is no fee to submit. Selected composers will be contacted with details about the evening event via email.

Celebrate Ivy Tech in Wabash at Monopoly Night

Ivy Tech Community College is hosting its 11th annual Wabash Monopoly Night from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 24 in the Parkview Health Ballroom of Eagles Theatre, 106 W. Market St. This event is open to the community. Guests must RSVP by April 15 to Laura Leichty by email at lleichty@ivytech.edu or by phone 260-481-2243.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.



Quick Hits

WNBA's Skylar Diggins-Smith heads to Phoenix

NEW YORK (AP) — Skylar Diggins-Smith is going to Phoenix to join Diana Taurasi and Brittney Griner.

The Dallas Wings traded the four-time All-Star to the Mercury on Wednesday for the No. 5 and 7 picks in the 2020 WNBA draft and Phoenix's 2021 first-round pick. The Wings then sent the 2021 pick the team acquired in the deal to the Chicago Sky in exchange for Astou Ndour.

"Players with Skylar's skillset and ceiling don't become available in free agency often," Mercury general manager Jim Pittman said. "She was our top target this offseason and we think teaming her with Diana Taurasi and Brittney Griner will give us the league's most dynamic offensive trio."

Diggins told The Associated Press last month that she didn't want to play in Dallas anymore. The team gave her the franchise designation, meaning she couldn't leave as a free agent. The move comes a day after the Mercury sent DeWanna Bonner to the Connecticut Sun for three first-round draft picks, including some of the ones they sent to the Wings.

Kobe Bryant, daughter buried in cemetery

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, were buried Friday in a cemetery near the family's Southern California home, according to death certificates.

Pacific View Memorial Park in Corona del Mar features meticulous landscaping, open courtyards and fountains that "express the joy of living," according to its website. Actor John Wayne, who died in 1979, also is buried there.

The Bryants and seven others were killed in a Jan. 26 helicopter crash. The retired basketball superstar, his daughter and the other victims will be honored at a Feb. 24 public memorial at Staples Center, where Bryant starred for most of his 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers.

The date 2/24 corresponds with the No. 24 jersey he wore and the No. 2 worn by Gianna, whose team was coached by her father.

Submit your news

The *Plain Dealer* is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

- Emailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.
- Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.
- Mailed into *Plain Dealer,* 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Organizations or individuals emailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The *Plain Dealer* reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.



Jacob Rude / Plain Dealer

Manchester's Thane Creager finishes a layup on a fastbreak during the first half of Tuesday's game against Northfield.

Fast first quarter sends Squires to blowout win

By JACOB RUDE
sports@wabashplaindealer.com

Mother Nature may have forced the Manchester boys' basketball team into an extraordinarily long delay between games but few would have been able to tell based on Tuesday's performance.

After a ten-day break since falling to Fort Wayne Concordia, the Squires looked like they hadn't missed a beat at Northfield, opening up a 20-6 lead after one quarter on the way to a convincing 64-47 win.

"That was really big because we hadn't played for so long," Manchester head coach Mark Underwood said of the first quarter. "It'd been about 10 days since we played. I challenged the guys ahead of tonight 'Make sure you come out and you're mentally into it and that you're physically into it and that you're into it together as a team.' And they really came out in that first quarter with some really good basketball on our part. I was really pleased with how our guys played. If we can put four quarters like that together, then we'll be where we want to be."

The high-paced game saw Manchester thrive in the open court as Weston Hamby, Austin Underwood and Thane Creager got the Squires off to a 9-0 lead. After Northfield scored two of its only three baskets in the quarter to stay within single digits at 13-4, Manchester ripped off another 7-0 run with every point coming from big men Underwood and Kreeden Krull, a reoccurring theme on the night.

Northfield would close the quarter with a bucket and would pull itself back into the game. A pair of Alex Haupert free throws early in the second quarter closed the gap to eight points, a margin they would touch once more. But after two more free throws from Graydon Holmes pulled the Norse to within 29-20, Manchester closed the half on a 10-2 run to head into the locker room up 39-22 with Max Carter closing the half with a last-second layup.

While Northfield's last contest featured a double-digit, second-half

See **SQUIRES**, page B2

Penn St. relies on 3-point flurry to win at Purdue

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Seth Lundy delivered a flurry of first-half scoring punches.

Mike Watkins capitalized with a quick second-half knockout blow.

Watkins matched a season high with 19 points, Lundy added a career-high 18 and No. 13 Penn State pulled away with a rare 88-76 victory at Purdue Tuesday night.

"I've watched every team that's come in here and it's a massacre by the media timeout with six minutes to go," Penn State coach Pat Chambers said. "So we knew how important that first four (minutes) was going to be. Fortunately, we were in the lead but I just wanted to be right there."

This win will go down as yet another monumental chapter in the Nittany Lions' remarkable season.

Penn State made a season-high 14 3-pointers, one short of the school record set against Purdue in February 2007, and extended its winning streak to seven.

The Nittany Lions (19-5, 9-4 Big Ten) also snapped a nine-game losing streak in the series, earning their first win at Mackey Arena since Feb. 18, 2006.

And with Lundy and Watkins leading the way, they made it look relatively easy.

Lundy needed only 20 minutes to establish a new career high with four 3s as Penn State ran out to a 42-30 halftime lead. He finished with six 3s.

"We were doing what we normally do, but we weren't getting them off the (3-point) line," Purdue guard Jahaad Proctor said. "As shooters, we know once you make a few and the team starts to get going, it's kind of contagious. We didn't really adjust and at that point the bucket was kind of big for them and they kept knocking them down."

Watkins, meanwhile, scored 16 points in the final 20 minutes to help Penn State double the lead to as much as 58-34.

The combination was simply too much for Purdue (14-11, 7-7).

Trevion Williams finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Boilermakers, which had a three-game winning streak end.

But with Penn State firing on all cylinders right from the start, Purdue never had much of a chance.

With Lundy leading the way, six of the Nittany Lions' first seven baskets came from behind the arc as Penn State pulled out to a 27-16 lead.

The Boilermakers got as close as 33-28 late in the half before Penn State closed the half on a 9-2 run and opened the second half, behind Watkins, on a 13-2 spurt that made it 55-32.

"I think these guys have really learned what they need to do on a nightly basis," Chambers said. "I think having seniors and leaders and guys that have been there, they understand what they need to do on the road."

Purdue got as close as 83-76 with 54 seconds remaining, but Penn State closed it out at the free-throw line.

BIG PICTURE

Penn State: Check another goal off the list for the Nittany Lions – beating a team that had dominated this series for years. How did they do it? By making 3s, defending hard and thwarting any challenges with timely baskets. No wonder Penn State is the only Big Ten team with a winning road record in league play (5-3).

Purdue: Just when it appeared the Boilermakers may have turned their season around, they hit another low in their roller-coaster season. When they couldn't defend the perimeter, they couldn't find enough scoring punch to fight back. The result was predictable despite a 12-4 spurt that finally cut the deficit to single digits with 1:14 to go.

STAT PACK

Penn State: Was 10 of 19 on 3s in the first half. ... Watkins moved past Mike Lang (912) and into second place on the school's career list with 917. ... Lamar Stevens had 16 points, John Harrar added 13 and Myles Dread scored 12. ... Dread and Stevens each had five assists.

Purdue: Proctor and Isaiah Thompson each had 15 points. Eric Hunter Jr. scored 14. ... Tuesday marked the first meeting between a ranked Penn State team and an unranked Purdue team. ... Purdue has beaten four ranked foes, tied for the third-most in the nation, this season.

THEY SAID IT

Penn State: "It's taken me a long time – nine years – to finally get a win here," Chambers said. "A long time."

Purdue: "It felt like the roles were switched," Hunter said. "Usually when people come in here, we play harder than them. Most times we shoot the ball better, but they just outplayed us, outworked us."

Michigan State rallies to hire Colorado coach Tucker

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State hired Colorado's Mel Tucker as its new football coach Wednesday, rallying to land a veteran leader with ties to the school who decided to leave the Buffaloes after a single season.

The Spartans lured Tucker away from Colorado with a lucrative contract offer after appearing to be interested in coaches such as Luke Fickell, Robert Saleh and Pat Shurmur. Tucker will replace Mark Dantonio, who retired two weeks ago after 13 mostly successful seasons.

"Mel brings a championship pedigree, NFL experience, connections to our region, success on the recruiting trail and head coaching experience to our program," athletic director Bill Beekman said.

Michigan State scheduled a board meeting for later Wednesday to formally approve the hire and a news conference with Tucker was scheduled for early evening.

Colorado hired Tucker in December 2018, and gave him an opportunity to run the Pac-12 program after he was Georgia defensive coordinator. He was given a five-year, $14.75 million contract to lead the Buffaloes and they were 5-7 last season to match the program's record from each of the previous two years.

"We are disappointed to see coach Tucker leave," Colorado athletic director Rick George said.

The 48-year-old Tucker was a graduate assistant at Michigan State under Nick Saban in the late 1990s. His departure caught many by surprise, especially after he and George issued statements Saturday that seemed intended to quell speculation about him going to Michigan State.

Tucker also posted on his Twitter account over the weekend: "While I am flattered to be considered for the head coaching job at Michigan State, I am committed to CU Buffs Football for the build of our program, its great athletes, coaches and supporters." He ended it with a series of hashtags: #UnfinishedBusiness. #GoBuffs. #Relentless. #Culture. #The Build.

Even as recently as Tuesday, Tucker was making the media rounds, pumping up the Buffaloes and their bid to build the program back into a contender. He has also been meeting with alumni and donors to drum up support.

"Returning home to Michigan State is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me and my family, but it created the toughest decision of my life – to leave Colorado," Tucker said. "There is no way to fully express my gratitude to the Buffalo student-athletes, Rick George, and our staff."

After being an NFL defensive coordinator in Cleveland, Jacksonville and Chicago, Tucker became an assistant again under Saban at Alabama in 2015. He spent only one season with the Crimson Tide, helping them win a national title. He also was the interim head coach for Jacksonville over

See **TUCKER**, page B2

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Standings through Tuesday

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Louisville	12	1	.923	21	3	.875
Duke	11	2	.846	21	3	.875
Florida St.	10	3	.769	20	4	.833
Virginia	8	5	.615	16	7	.696
NC State	7	6	.538	16	8	.667
Syracuse	7	6	.538	14	10	.583
Notre Dame	6	7	.462	15	9	.625
Pittsburgh	6	7	.462	15	9	.625
Boston College	6	7	.462	12	12	.500
Virginia Tech	5	8	.385	14	10	.583
Clemson	5	8	.385	11	12	.478
Georgia Tech	5	8	.385	11	13	.458
Wake Forest	4	10	.286	11	13	.458
Miami	3	10	.231	11	12	.478
North Carolina	3	10	.231	10	14	.417

Tuesday's Games

NC State 79, Syracuse 74
Wake Forest 74, North Carolina 57
Virginia 50, Notre Dame 49, OT

Wednesday's Games

Boston College at Miami
Louisville at Georgia Tech
Clemson at Pittsburgh

BIG EAST CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Seton Hall	10	1	.909	18	5	.783
Creighton	7	4	.636	18	6	.750
Marquette	7	4	.636	17	6	.739
Villanova	7	4	.636	17	6	.739
Butler	6	5	.545	18	6	.750
Providence	6	5	.545	13	11	.542
Xavier	5	6	.455	16	8	.667
Georgetown	4	7	.364	14	10	.583
St. John's	2	9	.182	13	11	.542
DePaul	1	10	.091	13	11	.542

Wednesday's Games

Xavier at Butler
Creighton at Seton Hall
Providence at St. John's
Marquette at Villanova

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Maryland	10	3	.769	20	4	.833
Penn St.	9	4	.692	19	5	.792
Michigan St.	9	5	.643	17	8	.680
Iowa	8	5	.615	17	7	.708
Rutgers	8	5	.615	17	7	.708
Illinois	8	5	.615	16	8	.667
Wisconsin	7	6	.538	14	10	.583
Purdue	7	7	.500	14	11	.560
Minnesota	6	7	.462	12	11	.522
Indiana	5	7	.417	15	8	.652
Ohio St.	5	7	.417	15	8	.652
Michigan	5	7	.417	14	9	.609
Nebraska	2	11	.154	7	17	.292
Northwestern	1	11	.083	6	16	.273

Tuesday's Games

Penn St. 88, Purdue 76
Maryland 72, Nebraska 70
Michigan St. 70, Illinois 69

Wednesday's Games

Rutgers at Ohio St.
Michigan at Northwestern

Thursday's Game

Iowa at Indiana, 8 p.m.

Tuesday's Men's Result

VIRGINIA 50, NOTRE DAME 49, OT

NOTRE DAME (15-9)

Durham 3-4 0-1 6, Mooney 4-14 3-6 11, Gibbs 2-11 0-0 6, Hubb 5-12 0-0 12, Pflueger 0-5 0-0 0, Laszewski 5-11 0-0 11, Goodwin 1-4 0-0 3, Djogo 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 20-61 3-7 49.

VIRGINIA (16-7)

Diakite 7-15 6-8 20, Huff 3-5 0-1 8, Clark 4-9 0-0 9, Key 1-7 1-2 3, Woldetensae 2-9 0-0 5, Morsell 2-5 0-0 5, Stattmann 0-1 0-0 0, Caffaro 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 19-51 7-11 50.

Halftime—Notre Dame 26-22. 3-Point Goals—Notre Dame 6-26 (Gibbs 2-4, Hubb 2-7, Goodwin 1-2, Laszewski 1-6, Pflueger 0-2, Mooney 0-5), Virginia 5-20 (Huff 2-3, Clark 1-2, Morsell 1-3, Woldetensae 1-8, Diakite 0-1, Key 0-3). Rebounds—Notre Dame 29 (Mooney 14), Virginia 36 (Key 12). Assists—Notre Dame 11 (Pflueger 5), Virginia 8 (Clark, Woldetensae 3).

NASCAR

Daytona 500 Lineup
After Sunday qualifying; race Sunday, Feb. 16
At Daytona International Speedway
Lap length: 2.5 miles
Car number in parentheses

1. (47) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 194.582 mph.
2. (88) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 194.363.
3. (9) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 194.305.
4. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 193.886.
5. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 193.432.
6. (18) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 192.876.
7. (10) Aric Almirola, Ford, 192.588.
8. (24) William Byron, Chevrolet, 192.443.
9. (95) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 192.234.
10. (20) Erik Jones, Toyota, 192.066.
11. (22) Joey Logano, Ford, 192.033.
12. (4) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 192.025.
13. (14) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 191.873.
14. (41) Cole Custer, Ford, 191.812.
15. (6) Ryan Newman, Ford, 191.693.
16. (21) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 191.685.
17. (37) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 191.616.
18. (8) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 191.559.
19. (17) Chris Buescher, Ford, 191.555.
20. (42) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 191.542.
21. (19) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 191.514.
22. (1) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 191.278.
23. (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 191.270.
24. (34) Michael McDowell, Ford, 191.205.
25. (38) John Hunter Nemechek, Ford, 191.180.
26. (36) David Ragan, Ford, 190.876.
27. (12) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 190.658.
28. (77) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 190.428.
29. (3) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 190.384.
30. (13) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 190.062.
31. (16) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 190.018.
32. (43) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, 189.510.
33. (62) Brendan Gaughan, Chevrolet, 188.945.
34. (27) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 187.356.
35. (66) Timmy Hill, Ford, 186.625.
36. (96) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 185.479.
37. (32) Corey LaJoie, Ford, 185.166.
38. (00) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 183.887.
39. (54) JJ Yeley, Ford, 183.292.
40. (15) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, 181.781.

Failed to qualify

41. (49) Chad Finchum, Toyota, 181.763.
42. (51) Joey Gase, Chevrolet, 179.756.
43. (52) BJ McLeod, Ford, no speed.

MLB

Remaining Free Agents
AMERICAN LEAGUE

NEW YORK (AP) — The 50 remaining free agents:
BALTIMORE (1) — Mark Trumbo, dh-of-1b.
BOSTON (3) — Andrew Cashner, rhp; Brock Holt, inf-of; Steve Pearce, 1b-of.
CLEVELAND (3) — Ryan Flaherty, inf; Jason Kipnis, 2b; Yasiel Puig, of.
DETROIT (1) — Gordon Beckham, 2b.
HOUSTON (1) — Collin McHugh, rhp.
LOS ANGELES (1) — Trevor Cahill, rhp.
NEW YORK (3) — Cory Gearrin, rhp; Cameron Maybin, of; CC Sabathia, lhp.
SEATTLE (3) — Wade LeBlanc, lhp; Tommy Milone, lhp; Arodys Vizcaíno, rhp.
TEXAS (2) — Welington Castillo, c; Shawn Kelley, rhp.
TORONTO (1) — Clay Buchholz, rhp.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA (2) — Jarrod Dyson, of; Wilmer Flores, of.
ATLANTA (2) — Brian McCann, c; Josh Tomlin, rhp.
CHICAGO (4) — Tony Barnette, rhp; Xavier Cedeño, lhp; Jonathan Lucroy, c; Ben Zobrist, inf-of.
COLORADO (2) — Yonder Alonso, 1b-of; Drew Butera, c.
LOS ANGELES (2) — David Freese, 3b; Russell Martin, c.
MIAMI (1) — Martín Prado, 1b-3b.
MILWAUKEE (1) — Matt Albers, rhp.
NEW YORK (2) — Rajai Davis, of; Juan Lagares, of.
PHILADELPHIA (6) — Jared Hughes, rhp; Tommy Hunter, rhp; Brad Miller, inf-of; Pat Neshek, rhp; Sean Rodríguez, inf-of; Jason Vargas, lhp.
PITTSBURGH (2) — Melky Cabrera, of; Lonnie Chisenhall, of.
ST. LOUIS (1) — Tony Cingrani, lhp.
SAN DIEGO (1) — Aaron Loup, lhp.
SAN FRANCISCO (1) — Fernando Abad, lhp.
WASHINGTON (4) — Brian Dozier, 2b; Jeremy Hellickson, rhp; Fernando Rodney, rhp; Jonny Venters, lhp.

ON THE AIR

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL (WOMEN'S)
3:30 a.m. (Friday)
FS2 — Melbourne vs. Western
AUTO RACING
4 p.m.
FS12 — NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series: Practice, Daytona Beach, Fla.
5:30 p.m.
FS1 — NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series: Final Practice, Daytona Beach, Fla.
7 p.m.
FS1 — NASCAR Cup Series: Bluegreen Vacations Duel 1 at Daytona, Daytona Beach, Fla.
BIATHLON
1 p.m.
NBCSN — IBU World Championships: 2x6km+2x7.5km Mixed Relay, Antholz-Anterselva, Italy (taped)
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
5 p.m.
CBSSN — Bryant at Sacred Heart
7 p.m.
CBSSN — College of Charleston at Hofstra
ESPN — Memphis at Cincinnati
ESPN2 — Wichita State at Central Florida
ESPNU — Winthrop at Gardner-Webb
8 p.m.
BTN — Iowa at Indiana
9 p.m.
CBSSN — Marshall at Texas (San Antonio)
ESPN — Colorado at Oregon
ESPN2 — Washington at Southern California
ESPNU — Murray State at Austin Peay
PAC-12N — Utah at Oregon State
10:30 p.m.
FS1 — Arizona at California
11 p.m.
ESPN2 — Arizona State at Stanford
ESPNU — Brigham Young at Loyola Marymount
PAC-12N — Washington State at UCLA
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
6 p.m.
ACCN — Duke at Pittsburgh
BTN — Iowa at Maryland
7 p.m.
SECN — Auburn at South Carolina
8 p.m.
ACCN — Louisville at North Carolina State
9 p.m.
SECN — Vanderbilt at Texas A&M
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
10 a.m.
ACCN — The St. Pete Clearwater Elite Invitational: Virginia Tech vs. Oklahoma State, Clearwater, Fla.
12:30 p.m.
SECN — The St. Pete Clearwater Elite Invitational: Texas Tech vs. South Carolina, Clearwater, Fla.
1 p.m.
ESPNU — The St. Pete Clearwater Elite Invitational: Kansas vs. Missouri, Clearwater, Fla.
4 p.m.
ESPN2 — The St. Pete Clearwater Elite Invitational: Washington vs. Alabama, Clearwater, Fla.
GOLF
12 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational, First Round, Los Angeles
2 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational, First Round, Los Angeles
6 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour: The Genesis Invitational, First Round, Los Angeles
9 p.m.
GOLF — LPGA Tour: The ISPS Handa Australian Open, Second Round, Seaton, Australia
NBA BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
TNT — LA Clippers at Boston
NHL HOCKEY
7 p.m.
NBCSN — Phila. at Florida
9:30 p.m.
NBCSN — Washington at Colorado
TENNIS
3 a.m.
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: Rotterdam-ATP, St. Petersburg-WTA, Hua-Hin-WTA Early Rounds
6 a.m.
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: Rotterdam-ATP, New York-ATP, St. Petersburg-WTA & Hua-Hin-WTA Early Rounds
7:30 p.m.
TENNIS — ATP: The New York Open, Early Rounds, Uniondale, N.Y.
2 a.m. (Friday)
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: Rotterdam-ATP, St. Petersburg-WTA, Hua-Hin-WTA Quarterfinals
6 a.m. (Friday)
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: Rotterdam-ATP, New York-ATP, St. Petersburg-WTA & Hua-Hin-WTA Quarterfinals

GOLF

World Golf Ranking
Through Feb. 9

1.	Rory McIlroy	NIR	9.19
2.	Brooks Koepka	USA	9.16
3.	Jon Rahm	ESP	8.67
4.	Justin Thomas	USA	7.63
5.	Dustin Johnson	USA	6.91
6.	Patrick Cantlay	USA	6.13
7.	Webb Simpson	USA	6.07
8.	Tiger Woods	USA	6.05
9.	Xander Schauffele	USA	5.73
10.	Justin Rose	ENG	5.66
11.	Tommy Fleetwood	ENG	5.61
12.	Tony Finau	USA	5.04
13.	Patrick Reed	USA	4.79
14.	Adam Scott	AUS	4.51
15.	Louis Oosthuizen	SAF	4.45
16.	Gary Woodland	USA	4.37
17.	Shane Lowry	IRL	4.32
18.	Bryson DeChambeau	USA	4.26
19.	Marc Leishman	AUS	4.20
20.	Matt Kuchar	USA	4.12
21.	Paul Casey	ENG	4.10
22.	Bernd Wiesberger	AUT	3.96
23.	Hideki Matsuyama	JPN	3.95
24.	Francesco Molinari	ITA	3.91
25.	Matthew Fitzpatrick	ENG	3.82
26.	Rickie Fowler	USA	3.72
27.	Henrik Stenson	SWE	3.27
28.	Kevin Na	USA	3.20
29.	Abraham Ancer	MEX	3.14
30.	Lee Westwood	ENG	3.12
31.	Danny Willett	ENG	3.02
32.	Kevin Kisner	USA	2.89
33.	Sungjae Im	KOR	2.87
34.	Tyrrell Hatton	ENG	2.85
35.	Cameron Smith	AUS	2.83
36.	Shugo Imahira	JPN	2.82
37.	Billy Horschel	USA	2.74
38.	Jason Day	AUS	2.73
39.	Matt Wallace	ENG	2.73
40.	Jazz Janewattananond	THA	2.72

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	57	34	11	12	80	188	143
Tampa Bay	57	37	15	5	79	203	152
Toronto	57	30	19	8	68	203	189
Florida	56	30	20	6	66	198	188
Montreal	58	27	24	7	61	179	176
Buffalo	57	25	24	8	58	162	178
Ottawa	56	18	27	11	47	147	191
Detroit	58	14	40	4	32	120	216

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	56	36	15	5	77	202	172
Pittsburgh	55	34	15	6	74	182	150
N.Y. Islanders	55	33	16	6	72	166	151
Columbus	57	30	17	10	70	148	139
Philadelphia	57	31	19	7	69	184	170
Carolina	56	32	21	3	67	181	157
N.Y. Rangers	55	28	23	4	60	181	174
New Jersey	55	20	25	10	50	152	195

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	56	32	15	9	73	178	160
Colorado	55	33	16	6	72	200	154
Dallas	56	32	19	5	69	151	142
Winnipeg	58	29	24	5	63	174	176
Minnesota	56	27	23	6	60	173	181
Nashville	55	26	22	7	59	178	183
Chicago	56	25	23	8	58	166	178

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	57	31	21	5	67	187	175
Edmonton	56	30	20	6	66	181	176
Calgary	57	29	22	6	64	161	173
Vegas	58	28	22	8	64	182	178
Arizona	59	28	23	8	64	165	162
Anaheim	56	23	26	7	53	146	173
San Jose	56	24	28	4	52	147	187
Los Angeles	57	19	33	5	43	137	183

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Tuesday's Games

Buffalo 3, Detroit 2
N.Y. Islanders 5, Philadelphia 3
Florida 5, New Jersey 3
Tampa Bay 2, Pittsburgh 1, OT
Toronto 3, Arizona 2, OT
Minnesota 4, Vegas 0
N.Y. Rangers 4, Winnipeg 1
Dallas 4, Carolina 1
Colorado 3, Ottawa 0
Edmonton 5, Chicago 3
St. Louis at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Montreal at Boston
Calgary at Los Angeles
Chicago at Vancouver

Today's Games

Columbus at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Detroit at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Florida, 7 p.m.
Arizona at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Nashville, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Washington at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Calgary at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
St. Louis at Vegas, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Montreal at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Columbus, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Detroit at Boston, 1 p.m.
Nashville at St. Louis, 3 p.m.
Edmonton at Florida, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.
San Jose at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles vs. Colorado at Falcon Stadium, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Washington at Arizona, 10 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Vegas, 10:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	40	14	.741	—
Boston	37	16	.698	2½
Phila.	34	21	.618	6½
Brooklyn	24	28	.462	15
New York	17	37	.315	23

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	35	18	.660	—
Orlando	23	31	.426	12½
Washington	19	33	.365	15½
Charlotte	17	36	.321	18
Atlanta	15	40	.273	21

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	46	7	.868	—
Indiana	31	23	.574	15½
Chicago	19	36	.345	28
Detroit	19	37	.339	28½
Cleveland	13	40	.245	33

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	34	20	.630	—
Dallas	32	22	.593	2
Memphis	27	26	.509	6½
San Antonio	23	31	.426	11
New Orleans	23	31	.426	11

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	38	16	.704	—
Utah	35	18	.660	2½
Oklahoma City	32	22	.593	6
Portland	25	30	.455	13½
Minnesota	16	36	.308	21

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	40	12	.769	—
L.A. Clippers	37	17	.685	4
Sacramento	21	32	.396	19½
Phoenix	21	33	.389	20
Golden State	12	42	.222	29

Tuesday's Games

Washington 126, Chicago 114
Phila. 110, L.A. Clippers 103
New Orleans 138, Portland 117
San Antonio 114, Oklahoma City 106
Houston 116, Boston 105

Wednesday's Games

Atlanta at Cleveland
Detroit at Orlando
Milwaukee at Indiana
Toronto at Brooklyn
Washington at New York
Charlotte at Minnesota
Portland at Memphis
Sacramento at Dallas
Golden State at Phoenix
Miami at Utah
L.A. Lakers at Denver

Today's Games

L.A. Clippers at Boston, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

Friday's Game

Team USA vs Team World, 9 p.m., Chicago

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Claimed INF Ramón Urías off waivers from St. Louis. Assigned INF Pat Valaika outright to Norfolk (IL).
BOSTON RED SOX — Promoted bench coach Ron Roenicke to interim manager. Signed C Juan Centeno and OF César Puello to minor league contracts.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Manny Bañuelos, LHP Wei-Yin Chen, OF Eric Filia and INF Alen Hanson to minor league contracts.
TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Taylor Jungmann on a minor league contract.

National League

CINCINNATI REDS — Assigned RHP Sal Romano outright to Louisville (IL).

BASKETBALL
Women's NBA

CONNECTICUT SUN — Acquired G DeWanna Bonner from Phoenix for two 2020 first-round (No. 7 and No. 10) draft picks.
MINNESOTA LYNX — Named Rebekkah Brunson assistant coach.
WASHINGTON MYSTICS — Re-signed F Elena Delle Donne.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Named Jeff Howard pass game coordinator/defensive backs coach.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — CB Davon House announced his retirement.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed DB Lenzy Pipkins.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Promoted Burke Nihill and Gil Beverly to senior vice presidents of both the Titans and Nissan Stadium.

Canadian Football League

EDMONTON ESKIMOS — Signed DB Jonathon Mincy to a two-year contract. Signed RB Brandon Burks; WRs Alex Charette and Shakeir Ryan; DBs Anthony Covington, Caleb Ham and Trumaine Washington; LBs Justin Tuggle and Korey Jones; and OL Jean-Simon Roy to one-year contracts.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

NHL — Fined Vancouver F Antoine Roussel $5,000 for slashing Nashville D Yannick Weber during a Feb. 10 game.
DALLAS STARS — Loaned D Taylor Fedun to Texas (AHL) on a conditioning assignment.

Virginia men edge Irish, 50-49, in overtime

By HANK KURZ JR.
Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — In reigning national champion Virginia's battle to get back to the NCAA Tournament, Mamadi Diakite and his teammates are using the memories and experiences of last year and three nail-biter victories as a steadying force.

"The intensity reminded me of the tournament," Diakite said after the Cavaliers tied the game late and outscored Notre Dame 3-2 in overtime to win 50-49.

"Both teams needed to win," he said.

Braxton Key made a free throw with 2:04 left in overtime – the final points of the game – to provide the difference on a tough shooting night for both teams.

It was an ending that left Virginia coach Tony Bennett grateful for a 3-point try by Kihei Clark in the final minute that missed everything and landed out of bounds, one of many airballs on the night for both teams.

"The fact that it hit the out-of-bounds line let us set up our defense," Bennett said. "Sometimes it's better to miss bad."

Diakite scored 20 points for the Cavaliers (16-7, 8-5 Atlantic Coast Conference), including the turnaround jumper with 25.1 seconds left in regulation that forced the overtime. Jay Huff added eight points and nine rebounds and said the Cavaliers were well aware that it was a game both teams considered critical.

"We talked about that before the game," he said, describing both teams as "bubble teams. ... It was a really important game for us as is every game, and I think they thought the same thing."

Key grabbed 13 rebounds for Virginia, which outrebounded the Irish 42-34.

Prentiss Hubb scored 12 and John Mooney had 11 points and 14 rebounds, his 20th double-double in 23 games, for the Fighting Irish (15-9, 6-7). They saw their four-game winning streak end.

"We thought it would be a rock fight. I told them it would. It was, and they're probably more accustomed to the rock fights than us," Irish coach Mike Brey said.

Notre Dame had a chance to win, but Rex Pflueger's 3-pointer from in front of the Irish bench in the final seconds missed and Key tapped the ball away.

The Irish finished 20 of 61 from the field (33 percent) and Virginia was 19-51 (37 percent).

In the overtime, Diakite hit a two free throws to give Virginia the lead, and Hubb's fall-away tied it with 3:29 left. Key's free throw was the only point the rest of the way, the ball bouncing in after he airballed the first attempt.

Virginia had trailed since the early going before a 10-0 run gave them a 43-38 lead. Diakite started it with a pair of free throws and Huff scored the last eight points, hitting a pair of 3-pointers and a baby hook. He also had a block in his personal flurry, drawing roars from the crowd, but they soon were silenced.

A basket by Diakite made it 45-40 with 6:48 left, but the Irish scored the next seven points until Virginia pulled even again on Diakite's tying turnaround.

BIG PICTURE

Notre Dame: The Fighting Irish's winning streak coming in came at a good time, putting them in position to contend for an NCAA Tournament berth. It also came against teams they needed to beat in Wake Forest, Georgia Tech, Pittsburgh and on the road at Clemson, all below .500 in league play.

U.S. soccer men's union says women's pay should be tripled

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. men's national team urged the U.S. Soccer Federation to sharply increase pay of the American women and accused the governing body of making low-ball offers in negotiations with the men.

The union for the women's team filed a gender discrimination lawsuit against the USSF that is scheduled for trial starting May 5 in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. The women agreed to a collective bargaining agreement in April 2017 that extends through 2021. The men's labor contract expired at the end of 2018.

"The women's 2017-2021 deal is worse than the men's 2011-2018 deal," the men's union said in a statement Wednesday. "The federation continues to discriminate against the women in their wages and working conditions. ... What we believe should happen is simple. Pay the women significantly more than our recently expired men's deal. In our estimation, the women were due at least triple what our expired deal was worth in player compensation."

The men claimed the federation wants their pay to stay at the same level as in their expired contract.

"It's a desperate attempt to cover up the fact that what they did to the women in 2017 is indefensible," the statement said.

Carlos Cordeiro, who succeeded Sunil Gulati as USSF president in February 2018, did not respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment.

The men said they issued their statement because "the federation has been working very hard to sell a false narrative to the public and even to members of Congress. They have been using this false narrative as a weapon against current and former members of the United States women's national team."

The men claimed "the federation insisted the women sign a 2017-21 deal that was worse financially than the men's soon-to-expire 2011-18 CBA that had been negotiated six years earlier." They said "the correct comparison should be between what the women got with their 2017-21 deal and triple what the federation agreed to pay the men in 2011 or whatever the men negotiate in their new CBA that will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2019."

They urged fans to write to Congress and to "tell the federation's sponsors you will not support them until the federation starts doing the right thing and gives the women a new CBA that pays a fair share of the gate receipts and that television and sponsorship revenue to the players."

TUCKER

From page B1

the final five games in 2011 after Jack Del Rio was fired.

Tucker also was an assistant at Ohio State as a defensive backs coach when it won a national title under Jim Tressel, whose nephew, Mike Tressel, was Michigan State's interim coach briefly this month.

Dantonio retired with a 114-57 record over 13 years. He won three Big Ten titles and had a College Football Playoff appearance over a six-season span from 2010 to 2015.

The Spartans have slipped in recent years. They had 7-6 records the past two seasons and were three games over .500 in the four seasons following their playoff appearance.

Beekman received input from Dantonio and basketball coach Tom Izzo before recommending the school's governing board hire Tucker.

Beekman appeared to be interested in hiring Fickell, but he chose to stay at Cincinnati. Saleh is a former Michigan State assistant who is now the defensive coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers and Shurmur, a former Spartans player and assistant, is offensive coordinator for the Denver Broncos.

SQUIRES

From page B1

comeback against Caston, Manchester spent the second half dominating the glass to ensure there would be no rally on Tuesday.

The Squires finished with 41 rebounds on the night, 18 of those being on the offensive side. Both Krull (12) and Max Carter (11) finished with double-digit rebounds. The effort on the glass allowed the lead to peak at 25 points following a basket from Krull to push the Squires ahead 50-25.

"I really liked the way we got on the offensive boards and got some putbacks," Underwood said. "That takes some physical ability but it's mainly heart. The fact that we had guys getting in there and getting rebound opportunities and not limited ourselves to one shot per possession I think was a big key in our success tonight."

While Northfield scored six unanswered late in the fourth, the lead never dipped below 19 points in the final frame as the Squires moved above .500 overall on the year and picked up their fourth conference win.

Five players finished in double figures in scoring for Manchester, led by Creager's 14 points for his double-double. Carter and Krull had 13 apiece, the latter also finishing with a double-double on the day, while Underwood and Hamby each chipped in 11 points.

Clayton Tomlinson and Alex Haupert each had nine points for the Norse with Tomlinson also adding six assists.

Barring a handful of upsets down the stretch, the Squires are likely out of the Three Rivers Conference title picture. Despite sitting in a tie for third with a 4-2 conference record, the Apaches are first at 6-0 with just three conference games remaining.

With that in mind, the focus for Manchester has switched to prepping for the postseason where Class 2A's No. 2-ranked team in Fort Wayne Blackhawk awaits.

"We've got a really tough schedule as we finish up here," Underwood said. "Our focus is going to be just trying to get better and be very competitive in those games, try to pick up some wins along the way. The main goal is to get ourselves ready for the sectional. The kind of teams we're playing at the end of the year is the same caliber as what we're going to see in the sectional. It's going to be good preparation for us."

The Squires travel to Peru on Friday for a conference showdown. Northfield, meanwhile, travels to Bluffton on Friday. Both games are set for 7:30 p.m. starts.

Kobe at the forefront as All-Star Weekend nears

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Kobe Bryant will be announced Friday at All-Star Weekend in Chicago as one of the finalists for this year's Basketball Hall of Fame induction class, which isn't a secret and never was.

Bryant always was a lock to be a first-ballot pick. Fellow first-time nominees Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett will almost certainly also be among those announced Friday as finalists. The complete class that will be enshrined at Springfield, Massachusetts in August will be announced on April 4 at the Final Four in Atlanta.

But Friday's announcement of the finalists in Chicago will be largely about the memory of Bryant, and rightly so. This All-Star weekend is the first huge gathering of the NBA family since Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others were killed in a helicopter crash in Southern California on Jan. 26. They'll be remembered and honored throughout the weekend, and it's a safe bet that Commissioner Adam Silver – in his annual All-Star news conference Saturday – has plenty to say about Bryant.

"I think every player, anyone who's been in the game was incredibly affected by the loss of Kobe," USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo said. "A few days after it happened I was in Dallas for the Hall of Fame committee meeting to look at the candidates who will be announced in Chicago and to eventually put some individuals forward. And what do you think we talked about most of the time?"

Easy answer.

Everyone at that meeting had a Bryant story to share. His candidacy and basketball resume were not debated. They didn't have to be, of course. But the stories flowed anyway, one after another, as some of the most powerful people in basketball turned a long-scheduled Hall of Fame meeting into an emergency therapy and grieving session.

And that's what Chicago will be as well – more stories, more therapy, more grieving.

Giannis Antetokounmpo's team will play Sunday's All-Star Game wearing the No. 24 on their jerseys, in tribute to the number Bryant wore in the second half of his career with the Lakers. LeBron James' team will wear No. 2 that night, in tribute to Gianna Bryant and her jersey number. Everyone in the Rising Stars game Friday, all the All-Star Saturday events and then the game itself will also wear a patch with nine stars, one for each of the victims of the crash.

A week after everyone leaves Chicago, the NBA will gather again in Los Angeles for the memorial for Bryant and his daughter. It's on Feb. 24 – 2/24, which is not a coincidence. The numbers on the calendar made it seem like the appropriate day, so that's what Vanessa Bryant, Kobe's wife and Gianna's mom, ultimately chose.

That's not the end, of course. The emptiness that the league is feeling without Bryant will come up again in April, when the Hall of Fame officially says he's going to be enshrined. Then in June, when someone wins a championship. Then in July, when someone on the U.S. men's national team wears No. 10 – Bryant's Olympic number – at the Tokyo Games. Then in August, at the Hall of Fame ceremony. Then in January, the anniversary of the crash. And so on. And so on.

It should also be noted, however, that celebrating Garnett, Duncan and the other finalists on Friday should – and must – happen.

Bryant appreciated greatness. It was really the only way anyone else in the game of basketball could earn his respect. He surely would have been among the first people to congratulate the other finalists. So Friday's announcement will likely have to strike a difficult balance, moments of sadness mixed with moments of joy.

"What I'm looking forward to is the time of healing," Colangelo said. "It'll give us a chance to kind of focus on the entire class because everyone is entitled to their due."

Lebron watch

Assuming he starts on Sunday as planned, LeBron James will become the first player in NBA history to start 16 All-Star Games.

He currently shares the record of 15 starts with Bryant.

James' 16th All-Star appearance will be second-most in NBA history, two shy of matching the mark of 18 set by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. If he wins MVP, James would tie the record of four such All-Star trophies – matching Bob Pettit and, again, Bryant.

James is the All-Star all-time leader in points, field goals and 3-pointers made, plus field goals and 3-pointers attempted. If he plays 10 minutes, he'll pass Abdul-Jabbar (449) for most All-Star minutes in a career.

And he's probably got a few more of these All-Stars left. He'll be atop those lists for a long time.

From deep

If Portland's Damian Lillard or Houston's James Harden tries any 2-point shot – a layup, a dunk, a midrange, anything – it'll be a departure from their All-Star shot charts last season.

Lillard took 17 shots at the All-Star Game last season. Harden took 13. In both cases, they were all from 3-point range.

They became the first players in All-Star history to take more than 10 shots in the game and have exactly none of them come from inside the arc. Others have come close: Klay Thompson, Kyle Lowry, Bradley Beal and Kyle Korver all had exactly one 2-point try on a night with double-digit 3-point attempts, but only Lillard and Harden can say they shot with such volume entirely from beyond the arc.

Some perspective on how 3-crazy the All-Star Game has gotten: When the Eastern Conference won in 2010, it tried a total of 17 3's in that game.

The week ahead

It's a short week, but here are a few games to watch before everyone heads to Chicago:

Wednesday, Milwaukee at Indiana: The Bucks are 2-0 against the reeling Pacers this season, winning by a combined 47 points.

Thursday, L.A. Clippers at Boston and Oklahoma City at New Orleans: The last two games before the All-Star break begins.

Friday, Rising Stars game in Chicago: The U.S. vs. the World format remains in play this year.

Saturday, All-Star Saturday in Chicago: A newly tweaked 3-point contest, plus the dunk and skills events.

Sunday, All-Star Game in Chicago: $500,000 at stake for Chicago-area charities, and an untimed fourth quarter with a target score. And after that, no games in the NBA until Thursday, Feb. 20.

Maddon intrigued by Ohtani, focused on future with Angels

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Three days after Joe Maddon's 66th birthday, the Los Angeles Angels' new manager sat down in a familiar spring training complex and reminded everybody he was into two-way players before they were cool.

Left-hander Deshawn Warren was the Angels' second-round pick in 1992, when Maddon was a roving minor league instructor for the organization that employed him for his first three decades in baseball. Although Warren never got out of the low minors as a pitcher, he was maybe the fastest runner in the organization.

Maddon unsuccessfully tried to persuade Angels general manager Dan O'Brien to let Warren play in the field at a time when serious two-way play had been abandoned for decades. Now that Shohei Ohtani has emphatically brought it back, Maddon is thrilled to be on the vanguard again.

"I've always been intrigued by that," Maddon said. "I've always thought it's something that should be looked into more deeply."

Maddon has prided himself on being willing to be an innovator and an unconventional thinker for his entire career. He isn't narrowing his mind as he heads into the first season of his homecoming with the Angels.

Ohtani's unique progress is among Maddon's most important concerns over the next six weeks in Arizona, along with the evolution of a starting rotation that will hopefully include Ohtani before Memorial Day.

The Angels are targeting mid-May for Ohtani's return to the big-league mound, general manager Billy Eppler revealed Tuesday while pitchers and catchers reported to Tempe Diablo Stadium. Ohtani will be available as a designated hitter on opening day, but he will take days away from the big-league team to make rehab pitching starts in the minors.

Eppler and Ohtani have detailed plans for the two-way star's final comeback from Tommy John surgery and subsequent offseason knee surgery, which pushed back his pitching progress. Maddon is on board with the plans, but he also intends to make decisions by speaking face-to-face with Ohtani.

"I think patience is a key word with all of this," Maddon said. "I've been in development my whole life, so when you're trying to develop a major league talent like him here, coming off the injury situations that he's had, it's important to be very patient, and I am."

Angels owner Arte Moreno's patience has clearly worn a bit thin after four consecutive losing seasons and a decade without a playoff victory. Right after Maddon and the Cubs parted ways in September, Moreno abruptly fired manager Brad Ausmus and eagerly pursued Maddon to return to the club where he won the first of his two World Series rings as Mike Scioscia's bench coach.

Maddon took the job, but he isn't here to ease into retirement. He isn't even the oldest manager in the game anymore with 70-year-old Dusty Baker's arrival in Houston.

Maddon already has had dinner with many of his new Angels, and he is getting to know the rest in Tempe. He admires pitcher Julio Teheran's adventurous new haircut, and he is excited about the depth of the Halos' young talent,

"Jimmie Reese remained contemporary, and that's why he was able to do this until he was 93," Maddon said, evoking the memory of the beloved longtime Angels coach.

"There's a difference between accepting what's going on right now and remaining contemporary, or pushing back to the point where you do become a dinosaur or archaic," he added. "You do connect with people, regardless of their age. And how do you do that? By taking an interest in what they do, where they're coming from. Once you've established that momentum, then you can influence."

Maddon is living in the moment and planning for the future. But his return to the Angels has still brought on waves of memories, both here in Tempe and back in Southern California, where he and his wife will settle back into the house they left behind in Long Beach.

Maddon plans to use spring training as a chance to find a balance between the past and the present so he can focus on the Angels' future.

"I've always loved this place," Maddon said of modest Tempe Diablo Stadium and the complex which housed the Mariners a few decades ago. "So I remember having meetings down below in that little clubhouse, talking about instructional league stuff. So that's how my brain works. I get flooded with nostalgia, I do. And it's OK. It's a good thing."

Browns' Garrett to be reinstated by NFL from indefinite suspension

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Myles Garrett is allowed to play and chase quarterbacks again after the NFL reinstated the Browns' star defensive end from his indefinite suspension for a vicious attack on Pittsburgh QB Mason Rudolph last season.

The league lifted its ban Wednesday on Garrett, who ripped off Rudolph's helmet and smashed him over the head with it during a Nov. 14 game on national television. Garrett missed Cleveland's final six games and his loss was a major blow to the Browns, who went 2-4 without him, finished 6-10, fired coach Freddie Kitchens and saw general manager John Dorsey resign.

On Monday, Garrett met with Commissioner Roger Goodell and other league officials in the final step before he was cleared to return. He can participate in all of the Browns' offseason activities and that's a big relief as the team is undergoing another new start under coach Kevin Stefanski.

Garrett is cleared to return to all activities with the Browns.

"We welcome Myles back to our organization with open arms," Browns vice president of football operations and GM Andrew Berry said. "We know he is grateful to be reinstated, eager to put the past behind him and continue to evolve and grow as a leader. We look forward to having his strong positive presence back as a teammate, player and person in our community."

Garrett did not release a statement, but he posted a meme on his Twitter account of a scene from the film "John Wick" with the subtitle: "But now yeah, I'M THINKING I'M BACK!!!"

Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield offered his support, tweeting: "welcome back big fella!!!"

As the Browns were wrapping up a rare win over the Steelers in a Thursday night matchup, Garrett, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2017, pulled down Rudoplph after a pass attempt and the two wrestled on the ground. Rudolph tried to pull off Garrett's helmet but couldn't. Garrett ripped off Rudolph's helmet and swung and struck him with it, triggering a brawl between the teams.

Garrett paid dearly for his misstep. He was fined $45,623 and lost $1.14 million in game checks. His reputation also took a shot and he'll have to watch his behavior going forward as another violent incident could result in even harsher discipline by the league.

Garrett's suspension is the longest for a single behavior in league history. Tennessee's Albert Haynesworth was suspended five games for stomping on a player's helmet-less head in 2006.

Garrett appealed his ban and Garrett told independent officer James Thrash during his hearing that Rudolph had used a slur during their skirmish. However, Thrash upheld the decision and Garrett was done for the season. The league also suspended Steelers guard Maurkice Pouncey for three games (the penalty was later reduced to two) for punching and kicking Garrett, and Browns defensive lineman Larry Ogunjobi was suspended one game.

Garrett was having a strong third season as a pro, but he was flagged for some unnecessary roughness penalties early in the season. He finished with 10 sacks in 10 games.

Tiger's pursuit resumes for No. 83 at Riviera

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

"He (Bruce Edwards) comes over and says, 'Move out of the way, kid,' and pushes me out of the way. So I'm out on tour telling him this story and he says, 'Well, you were in the way.'"

TIGER WOODS

LOS ANGELES — There is no better place for Tiger Woods to set the PGA Tour record for most career victories than at Riviera.

Because this is where he played his first PGA Tour event as a 16-year-old amateur?

No.

Because he now is tournament host of the Genesis Invitational, giving it the kind of elevated status – smaller field, bigger purse – enjoyed only by Jack Nicklaus at the Memorial and the late Arnold Palmer at Bay Hill?

Not necessarily.

Because it's the course Woods has played the most times – 10 as a professional – without ever having won and he's due?

Not at all.

What makes Riviera ideal is because it's the next one on his schedule. And the sooner Woods can win No. 83 to break the record he shares with Sam Snead, the sooner everyone can stop speculating about the inevitable.

The question came up Tuesday – how could it not? – about how special it would be for Woods to set the record at Riviera. He interjected by saying with a smile, "Yes, that's been mentioned."

It was mentioned three weeks ago at Torrey Pines when he started the new year, and that made just as much sense. Torrey Pines was the first PGA Tour event he attended with his father, the course where he won eight times, including that 2008 U.S. Open that he played with a double stress fracture and shredded knee ligaments.

Then again, Woods has left such an enormous trail in golf that winning anywhere would have some historical perspective.

It could be Bay Hill, where he has won eight times. Maybe the Masters, where he could set the record and tie Jack Nicklaus with a sixth green jacket. The U.S. Open is at Winged Foot, the first major he played after his father died and the first cut he ever missed in a major.

It's a long list.

Woods hasn't decided where he is playing or even how much this year – even the Mexico Championship next week remains up in the air – but odds are he will have won every tournament on his schedule except L.A.

Oddly enough, what made the career record feel so inevitable was a tournament he had never played.

Winning the Tour Championship (for the third time) at the end of the 2018 season was the first step in his comeback from four back surgeries. Winning the Masters (for the fifth time) made the comeback complete, for it was his first major after a drought of nearly 11 years.

But it was when he returned from a fifth knee surgery – this one the maintenance variety – and played the ZoZo Championship in Japan where he showed such a comfort level with his swing and with his game that more victories seemed certain to follow.

So how about now?

"I've played in a number of events over the years, and for me not to win an event that has meant so much to me in my hometown ... I've done well in San Diego, I've done well at Sherwood, just haven't done well here," Woods said. "So hopefully, I can put it together this week and we'll have a great conversation on Sunday."

Riviera is the closest PGA Tour stop to his hometown of Cypress in Orange County, about 40 miles away, although with traffic, it takes about as much time as the 90 miles from Cypress to Torrey Pines.

Woods has done well all over his home state: eight victories at Torrey Pines, three at La Costa, two at Pebble Beach, one at Harding Park (not including the Presidents Cup in 2009, where he went 5-0).

Riviera hasn't been so friendly to him.

Woods withdrew after narrowly making the cut in 2006 because he was ill, and he stayed away for the next 12 years, only returning when a new title sponsor came on board and took on his TGR Ventures as the group running the tournament.

Not all memories are bad. He was runner-up in 1999 to Ernie Els – a bogey on the 13th cost him dearly, and a bogey on the final hole ended it for Woods. He also shared a story about one of the occasions he was at the tournament without clubs.

Woods was behind the ropes watching on the 11th tee when he heard Tom Watson was coming up the eighth hole, which was right behind him. He got there just in time for Watson to miss left while aiming for the back left pin position.

"I'm basically one of the only ones over there and Bruce (Edwards) was on the bag and I'm standing looking at the golf ball," Woods said. "He comes over and says, 'Move out of the way, kid,' and pushes me out of the way. So I'm out on tour telling him this story and he says, 'Well, you were in the way.'

"So for me to have experiences like that here at Riv and to have now this be my event ... hopefully on Sunday we'll be having this discussion a little bit more."

If not Sunday, then soon.

Niece suspects elderly aunt is being isolated by her son

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have an elderly (90-plus) aunt who lives with her son in a town about four hours away. She corresponds by letter with us regularly, and we always write back. However, it has become apparent that she's not receiving our letters because she doesn't make any comments on any of the things we write to tell her about. We suspect that her son is withholding her mail because we have written to him in the past to express our displeasure about how he treats his mother's emotional and safety needs.

In the last letter we received from her, she told us she expected to spend Christmas in her basement apartment while her son and his wife's family have Christmas festivities upstairs. It broke our hearts, but we realize that since we're so far away, there's little we can do. We've tried sending letters without our return address on the envelope, etc. to get past her son's scrutiny, but we really don't believe she's getting her mail.

Should we contact the police or social services to do a wellness check on her, or do you have another suggestion? We know she occasionally goes to a senior center in town. Should we write to her in care of the senior center? Your comments are appreciated. – Suspicious In Georgia

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Your relative may be having memory issues, or your fears may be genuine. Is it possible to talk with her on the phone or visit her to make an assessment? If someone suspects that an older person is being physically, emotionally or financially abused, it should be reported so the matter can be investigated. You can do that by contacting Adult Protective Services in your aunt's state or the National Domestic Violence hotline at thehotline.org or 800-799-7233.

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, I found some flirtatious and slightly risque messages between my husband and a female business associate. My husband agreed that they were wrong and says he has discontinued those kinds of conversations. He has stayed in contact with her, and their friendship remains.

After dealing with the hurt for more than two years, I finally told him a few months ago the only way I would be OK with their friendship is if he introduced me to her. He promised he would, but he hasn't followed through. This week I saw on our phone bill that while on a recent business trip he was texting with her late into the night and early in the morning. I confronted him, but he continues to say they are just friends, and he is doing nothing wrong.

I'm heartbroken. I feel he has betrayed my trust. What should I do? – Disrespected In Texas

DEAR DISRESPECTED: Your husband is doing something wrong. He's hurting you and threatening the marriage. What you should do now is ask your doctor or your health insurance company to refer you to a marriage and family therapist, schedule some visits and insist that your husband join you. If he is interested in saving the marriage, he will agree. If not, you may need to reconsider your future and consult an attorney.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

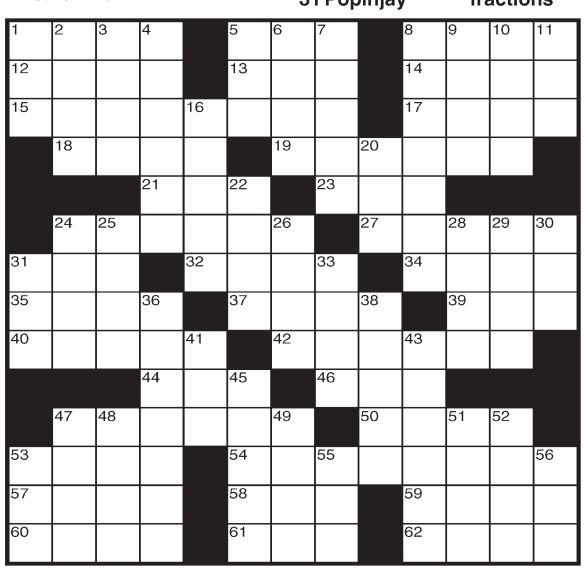
1 Move like lava
5 That guy's
8 Keep — on
12 Makes haste
13 Drink suffix
14 Mr. Sikorsky
15 Grabbed
17 Small lumps
18 "Fish Magic" artist
19 Marbles
21 Sense organ
23 Ben & Jerry rival
24 Maiden
27 Black playing card
31 Like some cats
32 Writer — Bagnold
34 New Age singer
35 Two-piece cookie
37 Ounce fraction
39 Beauty salon item
40 Remains undecided
42 Made level
44 Urge
46 Dog days in Dijon
47 Get equal billing (hyph.)
50 "WNBA Tuesday" airer
53 Woe is me!
54 Golf hazard (2 wds.)
57 Lo-cal
58 Round stopper
59 Bits of thread
60 Flower
61 Evergreen
62 They're often inflated

DOWN

1 Mild interjections
2 Sound piggish
3 Enthusiasm
4 High regard
5 Villain's cry
6 Notion
7 Papyrus is one
8 Antique photograph
9 Fit of shivering
10 Cuts short
11 Almost-grads
16 Halt
20 Mag fillers
22 Tear to bits
24 Be bold
25 Pharaoh's god
26 Trevi Fountain coins once
28 Murray or Rice
29 Did batik
30 Have a bite
31 Popinjay
33 Jazz great — Brubeck
36 Epic journey
38 Rationed out
41 Use hair rollers
43 Snuggle
45 Abominable
47 Ad award
48 Equine fodder
49 Tidy the lawn
51 Goody-goody
52 Metric prefix
53 Mont Blanc
55 Right away
56 Qt. fractions

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	O	V	I	D				C	H	E	W	S
B	M	O	V	I	E		P	O	I	R	O	T
I	N	T	E	N	D		R	O	T	A	R	Y
T	I	E	S		E	C	O		S	T	E	
				A	N	I	M	A				
O	G	D	E	N		I	O	D	I	N	E	
A	L	A	M	O				O	S	A	K	A
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	L	A	O		S	A	O		N	O	T	E
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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

		6		5	1	8	3	
				4				6
				2	6			5
		3		7	5			1
	7						9	
4			9	8		6		
5			4	1				
2				6				
	6	4	2	9		3		

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

1	8	5	4	2	7	9	6	3
4	7	6	5	9	3	2	1	8
9	3	2	6	1	8	4	5	7
6	9	3	1	5	4	8	7	2
7	1	8	2	3	9	6	4	5
2	5	4	7	8	6	1	3	9
8	6	9	3	7	1	5	2	4
3	2	1	8	4	5	7	9	6
5	4	7	9	6	2	3	8	1

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

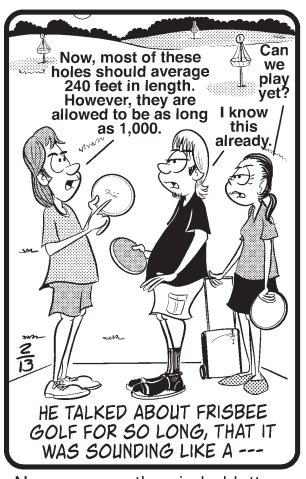
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUCKL

TOARI

DIRSUA

YEPDES



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AFTER UNCUT AFFIRM SESAME
Answer: Illinois chose the slogan "Land of Lincoln" in 1955 in order to honor the respected — STATESMAN

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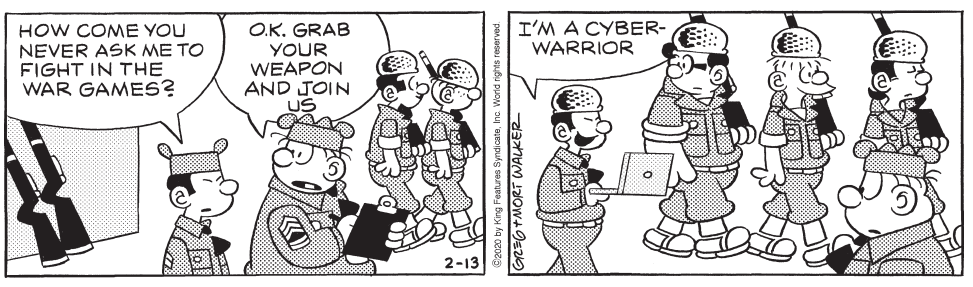
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

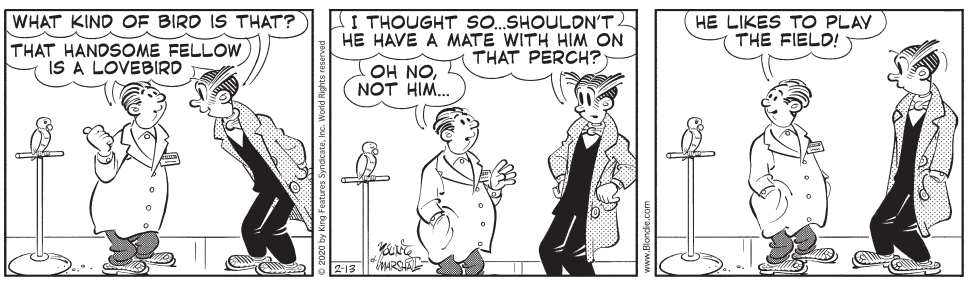


"Daddy does the 'Fee-fi-fo-fum' part way better."

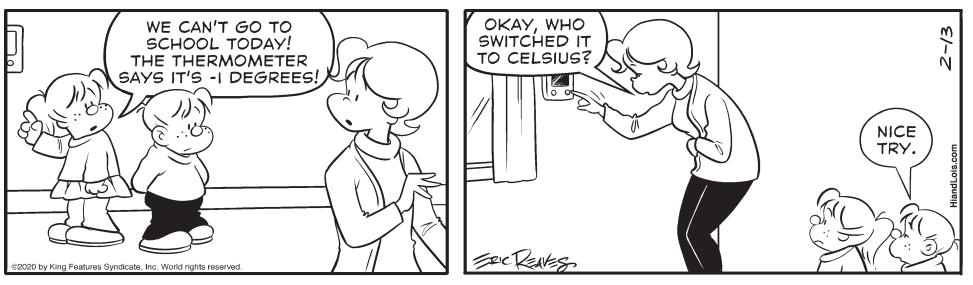
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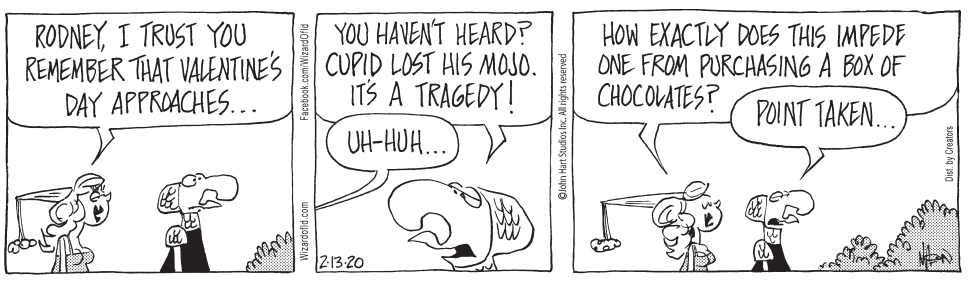
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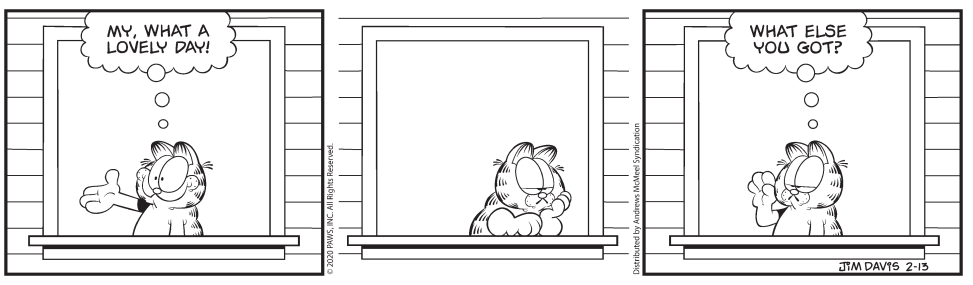
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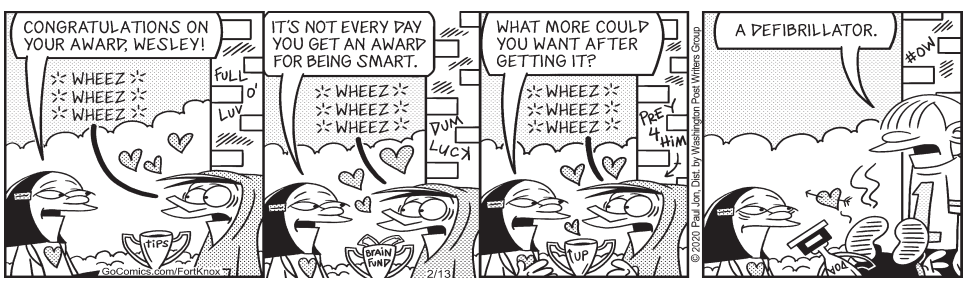
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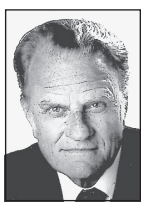


PICKLES



We must never give up on praying for the lost

Billy Graham
My Answer



Q: My grandfather is gruff, rough, and tough; never smiles and has nothing nice to say about anyone, yet I love him. Is there any hope of breaking through his thick façade with the Gospel of Christ that speaks of the fruits of the Spirit? I doubt that he will ever become meek and mild, but I just long for him to find happiness in this life. – C.G.

A: The word gentle was rarely heard of before the Christian era. This high quality of character was a direct byproduct of Christian faith.

The Bible says, "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17).

Charles Dickens wrote, "A man can never be a true gentleman in manner until he is a true gentleman at heart." I have seen tough, rough, hardened men open their hearts by faith, receive Christ as Savior, and become gentle, patient, merciful gentlemen.

There was once a man in London who served as a chauffeur. It was evident he had missed little of what this world had to offer. As he performed his duties, he found himself at an evangelistic meeting and was moved by the Holy Spirit to give his life to Christ. This man who seemed so detached suddenly was overcome by the truth of the Gospel. Such a marked change came over this man. His hardness disappeared; his veneer of sophistication melted away. He was a new creature! He threw away his X-rated literature, began to memorize the New Testament, and took on the true marks of a Christian gentleman, exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit: gentleness, goodness, meekness (Galatians 5:22-23). We must never give up on praying for the lost, and being examples of righteous living as modeled by the Lord Jesus.

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"T ORZP IYP BOCTG, GRMJCO WPGWP RV YSJRM CJPMTKCGW YCZP. TI TW GRI NTKHPL, OTHP TG WRJP KRSGIMTPW." — CGIRGTR XCGLPMCW

Previous Solution: "Education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in." — Abe Lincoln

TODAY'S CLUE: F = V

2 Russians flee quarantine, in dismay at hospitals

By JIM HEINTZ and DARIA LITVINOVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW — One patient jumped out of a hospital window to escape her quarantine and another managed to break out by disabling an electronic lock.

Two Russian women who were kept in isolation for possible inflection by a new virus say they fled from their Russian hospitals this month because of uncooperative doctors, poor conditions and fear they would become infected. Russian health authorities haven't commented on their complaints.

The incidents occurred amid the outbreak of the virus in China that has already infected some 45,000 people worldwide. In Russia, only two cases of the disease COVID-19 have been reported. Nevertheless, the authorities took vast measures to prevent the new disease from spreading and hospitalized hundreds of people who returned from China as a precaution.

Many of those quarantined in different Russian hospitals complained about dire conditions of isolation rooms and lack of cooperation from doctors, uncertain about quarantine protocols.

Both women said their hospital ordeals began after returning from Hainan, a tropical region of China popular with Russian tourists.

In a lengthy account on Instagram published Friday, a woman with the screen name of GuzelNeder said her son came down with a cough and a fever of 99.2 F four days after the family's return to their home in the city of Samara. She called emergency services, who diagnosed the boy as having a viral respiratory infection and who said the mother and the son must go to a hospital for coronavirus tests.

The hospital promised test results within three days, then extended it to five, she said, and meanwhile the boy responded to treatment with medication and an inhalator, she wrote. When she tried to press for results, hospital personnel obstructed her, she said.

Meanwhile, she had become concerned about lax procedures in the hospital, saying that some medical personnel came to the isolation area without masks or threw their protective clothing on the floor.

Her anxiety soared on the fifth day, when she began to feel badly. She asked her husband to bring her a home pregnancy test, and "after two minutes of wringing my hands in anticipation, it came on the screen – "PREGNANT," she wrote.

Her husband argued with the doctor that she and their son should be released because of her condition and concern of infection. The doctor said they had to be held for 14 days even if the virus test came back negative.

"My son was hysterical," she wrote. "There was no exit for us other than to leave the hospital without authorization, through the window."

Police later questioned her at home, but no charges have been reported. "Everyone in my family is alive and healthy, thank god," she wrote.

The other woman, Alla Ilyina, said in an Instagram post she came down with a sore throat several days after returning to St. Petersburg, Russia's second largest city, from Hainan.

Ilyina called emergency services, and medics brought her to a hospital for coronavirus testing, promising to let her go after 24 hours. The next day she was told she tested negative for the virus, but had to remain quarantined for two weeks.

"Wild," Ilyina wrote. "All three tests showed I was completely healthy, so why the hell the quarantine?"

Her isolation room was dire, she told the Fontanka newspaper – no books, no shampoo, no Wi-Fi a wastebasket that was never emptied, the door secured by an electronic lock.

Frustrated, she figured out how to short-circuit the electronic lock and escaped from the hospital on Friday.

Neither the hospital nor police have followed up on her escape, which leads her to believe her health is OK.

"If I were sick, they would have swamped me with phone calls," Fontanka quoted her as saying.

On Tuesday evening, Russian media reported that the hospital reported Ilyina's escape to the police, and that a criminal investigation could be launched into the incident.

Both women did not comment on their situations to The Associated Press.

Quarantine protocols in relation to the outbreak vary throughout Russia. In some regions, health officials isolate Chinese nationals who have recently returned from China, and in others everyone who reports symptoms resembling those of the new virus are subject to a 14-day quarantine.

Rospotrebnadzor, Russia's public health watchdog, hasn't responded to a request for comment on whether the women were allowed to leave the hospitals.

On Wednesday, the Fontanka newspaper published a video reportedly recorded by other patients quarantined in the same hospital Ilyina fled from. The footage shows two young women in what appears to be a patient room singing "I want to be like Alla (Ilyina)" and a handwritten note saying "Let us out of here, please."

Irina Sidorova, another woman who returned from Hainan on the same flight with Ilyina and was quarantined in the same hospital, told the AP that isolation rooms there were locked and patients weren't able to get out on their own.

Sidorova said in a phone interview that she was hospitalized only a week after she returned to St. Petersburg. She reiterated Ilyina's complaints about uncooperative doctors and said she wasn't allowed to leave the hospital until Feb. 15, despite showing no symptoms and testing negative for the virus.

Pope avoids question of married priests in Amazon document

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis refused Wednesday to approve the ordination of married men or women as deacons to address a shortage of priests in the Amazon, sidestepping a fraught issue that has divided the Catholic Church and emboldened his conservative critics.

In an eagerly awaited document, Francis didn't refer to recommendations by Amazonian bishops to consider married priests or women deacons. Rather, the pope urged bishops to pray for more priestly vocations and to send missionaries to a region where faithful Catholics in remote areas can go months or even years without Mass.

The pope's dodge disappointed liberals, who had hoped he would at least put both questions to further study. It outraged progressive Catholic women's groups. And it relieved conservatives who had used the debate over priestly celibacy to heighten their opposition to the pope, and saw his ducking of the issue as a victory.

Francis' document, "Beloved Amazon," is instead a love letter to the Amazonian rain forest and its indigenous peoples from the first Latin American pope. He has long been concerned about the violent exploitation of the Amazon's land, its importance to the global ecosystem and the injustices against its peoples.

Quoting poetry as frequently as past papal teachings, Francis addressed the document to all peoples of the world "to help awaken their affection and concern for that land which is also ours and to invite them to value it and acknowledge it as a sacred mystery."

Francis said he has four dreams for the Amazon: respecting the rights of the poor; celebrating their cultural riches; preserving its natural beauty and life; and showing the indigenous features of its Christian communities.

Francis had convened bishops from the Amazon's nine countries for a three-week synod in October to debate how the church can help preserve the delicate ecosystem from global warming and better minister to its people.

The Argentine Jesuit has long been sensitive to the plight of the Amazon, where Protestant and Pentecostal churches are making gains in the absence of vibrant Catholic communities where Mass can be regularly celebrated.

According to Catholic doctrine, only a priest can consecrate the Eucharistic hosts distributed at Mass, which the faithful believe are the body of Christ. Given the priest shortage, some remote communities only see a priest and attend a Mass once every few months or years. For Catholic communities in the Amazon, some of which date from the time of the Spanish colonization, the priest shortage coupled with the spread of evangelical churches risks the very Catholic nature of the communities.

In the synod's final document, most of the bishops called for establishing criteria so that "respected" married men in their communities who have already served as permanent deacons can be ordained as priests.

The bishops also urged the Vatican to reopen a study commission on ordaining women as deacons, which allows for preaching, celebrating weddings and baptisms, but not consecrating the Eucharist. Francis had created such a commission in 2016 at the insistence of nuns who want larger roles in church governance and ministry, but the group ended its work without reaching consensus.

Francis didn't mention either proposal in "Beloved Amazon" and didn't cite the synod's final document in his text or footnotes. But he did say he wanted to "officially present" the synod's work and urged the faithful to read the final document in full, suggesting he valued the input.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, a synod organizer, said its proposals "remain on the table" and have their own "certain moral authority." But the fact the pope didn't expressly approve the final document, and only presented it, means the proposals do not form part of his official teaching, said Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, another organizer.

Francis did echo some of the synod's recommendations, calling for greater lay participation in the life of the church and saying the training of priests in the Amazon must be overhauled so they can better minister to indigenous peoples. He said "every effort should be made" to provide access to Mass.

"This urgent need leads me to urge all bishops, especially those in Latin America, not only to promote prayer for priestly vocations, but also to be more generous in encouraging those who display a missionary vocation to opt for the Amazon region," he wrote.

Conservatives rejoiced that he had refused to approve married priests.

"It is a great success, a great success for the faithful," said conservative Austrian activist Alexander Tschugguel, who was so alarmed at the "pagan" proceedings of the synod that he stole three wooden statues of a pregnant woman that were featured in the Vatican meetings and threw them in the Tiber River.

"He doesn't write that they are forbidden in the future, but at least he doesn't write in favor of them, which is very good," Tschugguel told The Associated Press.

A conservative U.S. blogger, Thomas Peters, tweeted: "Deo gratias. The Holy Spirit has spared the Church."

The omission disappointed German Catholics. The issue of married priests is on the official agenda of a new process of dialogue between the German bishops' conference and a powerful lay group, the Central Committee of German Catholics.

"We regret very much that Pope Francis does not dare to move a step forward," said the head of the committee, Thomas Sternberg.

German Bishop Franz-Josef Overbeck of Essen, a progressive who is rumored to be in the running to head the German bishops conference, said he "would have been happy" if Francis had allowed for married priests. His reluctance to do so, he told the German daily Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger, "is perhaps an expression of the hesitancy of a 2,000-year-old church."

Francis dismissed suggestions that ordaining women would serve them or the church. While agreeing that women should have greater decision-making and governance roles, Francis argued that they must find "other forms of service and charisms that are proper to women."

Women's advocacy groups blasted the document. Francis justified his refusal to consider ordained ministry for women as sparing them the risk of being "clericalized," or placed on a pedestal.

"This post-synodal document is a betrayal of women by denying them the grace of holy orders to do a ministry they are already carrying out," said Miriam Duignan of the Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research, a British-based progressive Catholic think tank.

Kate McElwee, executive director of Women's Ordination Conference, concurred.

"Recognizing women's work with diaconal ordination would be the first, most basic step towards righting the wrong of institutional sexism that hobbles our church as it attempts to respond to the moral crises of our time," McElwee said in a statement.

The Catholic Church retains the priesthood for men, arguing that Christ and his apostles were male. While Eastern rite branches have married priests, and Anglican and Protestant priest converts can be married, the Roman rite church has had a tradition of priestly celibacy since the 11th century, imposed in part to ensure that priests' assets pass to the church, not to heirs.

In the weeks before the document's release, the question of a celibate priesthood made headlines after the publication of a book written by retired Pope Benedict XVI, and a conservative Vatican official, Cardinal Robert Sarah, reaffirmed its "necessity."

Benedict's participation in the book created controversy since it appeared he was trying to influence the thinking of the current pope, despite promises to remain "hidden from the world" when he resigned seven years ago. Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni noted that Francis finished his document in December, before the book came out, making clear he wasn't swayed by Benedict's intervention.

Francis avoided the issue altogether, dedicating the entire first half of the document to the "injustice and crime" committed against the Amazonian peoples and their environment by local governments, foreign corporate interests and illegal mining and extraction.

"We cannot allow globalization to become a new version of colonialism," he wrote, adding that the church in the Amazon must have social justice at the forefront of its spirituality.

Clare Dixon, Latin America chief for the British Catholic aid agency CAFOD, said its environmental emphasis might help influence the climate change debate.

"But Francis is also imploring us to listen to the wisdom of the people of the Amazon, insisting that we learn from the way they live with the environment rather than in competition with it," she said.

U.S. troops clash with pro-government group in northeast Syria

By ALBERT AJI and ANDREW WILKS
Associated Press

DAMASCUS — A Syrian was killed and another was wounded when government supporters attacked American troops and tried to block their way as their convoy drove through an army checkpoint in northeastern Syria, prompting a rare clash, state media and activists reported.

The U.S. military said its force came under fire, and that troops responded in self-defense. It said an investigation of the incident was underway.

Syrian state-run media said the man killed was a civilian and that he was among residents of a village east of the town of Qamishli who had gathered at the checkpoint and pelted the U.S. convoy with stones.

A video posted on state news agency SANA's website showed angry men firing small arms at a convoy of several armored U.S. vehicles flying the U.S. flag. Some residents pelted the convoy with stones, while another dumped a bucket full of dirt on the back of one vehicle.

In one of the worst incidents of violence against U.S. troops deployed in northeastern Syria, a small fire appears to ignite on an armored vehicle, apparently from fire bombs lobbed at the convoy. U.S. soldiers were seen standing in the middle of the melee, trying to disperse the crowd.

Other videos showed another vehicle stuck in the dirt, apparently having veered into a ditch, while another had a flat tire. In one video, a resident walked up to U.S. soldiers at one of the vehicles, holding a U.S. flag, screaming: "What do you want from our country? What is your business here?" A soldier tells the shouting man to "back off."

At that point, American troops fired live ammunition and smoke bombs at the residents, the reports said.

A U.S. military spokesman said coalition forces conducting a patrol near Qamishli encountered a checkpoint occupied by pro-Syrian government forces who ignored a series of warnings by coalition troops to de-escalate the situation. The patrol came under small-arms fire from unknown individuals, coalition spokesman Myles Caggins said, adding that coalition troops returned fire in self-defense.

"The situation was de-escalated and is under investigation," he said in a statement. Air Force Lt. Col. Carla Gleason, traveling with the U.S. defense secretary in Brussels, said no Americans were killed in the incident.

Asked about the incident, U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said in Brussels he was told there was an "altercation," without providing details.

"As far as I know today's incident did not involve the Russians," he said.

In other violence in the country's northwest, Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces continued their advance in Idlib and Aleppo provinces near the border with Turkey. They took full control of a strategic highway that runs through the rebel-held territory and links the capital to northern Syria. The M5 highway had been under opposition control for most of the war.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement that Syrian troops fully cleared the M5.

"Syria's most important transport artery – the M5 highway linking the blocked northern capital of Aleppo with Hama, Homs and Damascus in the south – has been freed from terrorists," the statement said.

With support from Russia, Syrian troops have been on the offensive for weeks in Idlib and parts of nearby Aleppo provinces, unleashing a humanitarian crisis with 700,000 people fleeing their homes and surging north toward the Turkish border.

The U.N. human rights office in Geneva recorded incidents between Feb. 1-10 in which at least 85 civilians were killed, including 20 women and 27 children with most casualties in the so-called "de-escalation area" in Idlib, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Wednesday.

The Syrian war, now in its ninth year, has pulled in international players including the U.S., Russia and Turkey. Russia has supported Assad's government, while Turkey is the rebels' main backer.

Hundreds of U.S. troops are stationed in northeastern Syria, working with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces to fight against the Islamic State group. The U.S. carries out patrols in northeastern Syria, but it was not immediately clear why the convoy drove into a government-controlled area Wednesday.

The clash marked a rare confrontation involving U.S. and Syrian troops in the crowded region where Russian forces are also deployed and was certain to escalate tensions.

At one point during the incident, U.S., Russian and Syrian flags could be seen next to each other, reflecting the complicated terrain in northeastern Syria. Some reports said a Russian convoy arrived on the scene to defuse the tension.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said residents and armed pro-government militiamen in Khirbet Ammu blocked the path of a U.S. convoy. The militia fired in the air, prompting the American troops to fire smoke bombs. Tension escalated and U.S. troops killed one person, the Observatory said.

The Observatory, which has a network of activists on the ground, said it was not clear if the person killed was a civilian or a militia member. The Observatory also said a Russian convoy arrived on the scene to defuse the tension.

The Idlib offensive has also triggered clashes between Syrian and Turkish troops in which 13 Turkish soldiers have died in one week.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday that Turkey could attack Syrian government forces anywhere in Syria if another Turkish soldier is hurt. He said Turkey is determined to force the Syrian military back from the gains it has made in Idlib, giving Syrian troops until the end of February to retreat.

"As of today, in the event of any minor harm to our soldiers, I announce that we will strike regime forces everywhere without being bound to Idlib or the boundaries of the Sochi agreement," Erdogan told a ruling party meeting in Ankara.

Erdogan was referring to the 2018 agreement between Russia and Turkey in which the two countries' troops would enforce a demilitarized zone in Idlib. As part of the agreement, Turkey established a dozen military observation posts in the province, where it backs some opposition groups. Several of these posts have been surrounded by government forces in recent weeks.

On Wednesday, opposition fighters, backed by Turkish artillery, launched an attack against new government positions along the highway.

Erdogan said he had spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin by telephone about the situation in Idlib.

The Kremlin said the phone conversation underlined the need to fully implement the Russian-Turkish agreements.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said despite a pledge by Turkey, militants in Idlib have continued to launch attacks on Syrian troops and threaten Russian facilities in Syria. "It's inadmissible and it runs contrary to the Sochi agreements," Peskov said in a conference call with reporters.

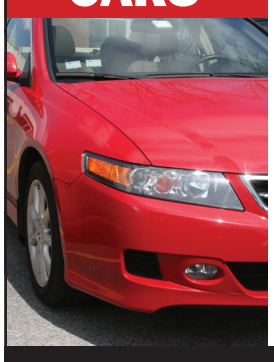
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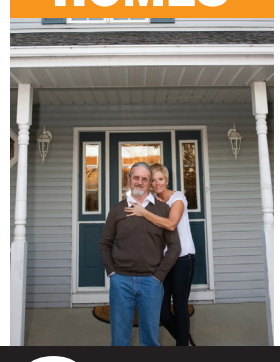
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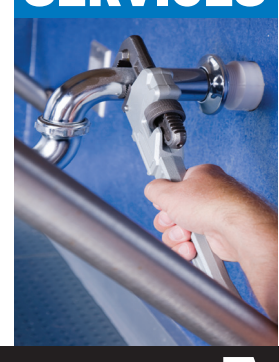
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Quiet area $210 wk.
Each are all utilities paid. Others available soon.
765-251-1135

MARION

1 BR 210 (duplex) S Branson St.
$390/mo; tenant pays all utilities

2 BR 208 (duplex) S Branson St.
$430/mo; tenan pays all utilities

Homes for Rent

2 BR 1133 W 6th St.
$500/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 104 (duplex) S Race St; $500/mo.
tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 501 (duplex) W 1st St; $500/mo.
tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 616 N Washington St.
$550/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1305 S Boots St; $550/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1723 W 4th St.
$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1423 W 3rd St.
$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1619 W Jeffras St; $600/mo.
tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 436 E Marshall St.
$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

4 BR 1652 W 2nd St; $600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

MATTHEWS
2 BR 211 E 9th St.
$500/mo; tenant pays all utilities

Please call us if you have any questions
765-662-1499 or visit our website www.hoosierrentalgroup.com

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE



Homes for Sale

FIXER'UPPER
HOMES FOR SALE ON CONTRACT.
LOW DOWN PAYMENTS.
AFFORDABLE MONTHLY PAYMENTS, NO CREDIT CHECK!
PLEASE CALL 317-969-7697
FOR A LIST OF AVAILABLE HOMES IN MARION.
YOUR JOB IS YOUR CREDIT.

Monuments/ Cemeteries

MARION
2 Plots at Gardens of Memory.
Hymns section.
$1600.00 for both plots. 765-673-4828

TRANSPORTATION

Trucks for Sale

Wabash, IN
2014 GMC
Sierra 1500
V6, double cab, flex fuel
Scorpion spray liner
Cobalt tool box,
tow package,
lighted bed
Only 25,000 miles
$22,000
260-330-2027

Cars for Sale

CASH FOR CARS
Highest Prices Paid Guaranteed for your running or non running car, truck or van with or without titles. I pick up 7 days a week. 260-224-5228

Cars for Sale

Blinn Auto Sales
628 E. 3rd St.
765-668-7777
Buy Here Pay Here

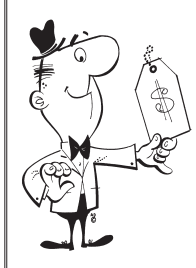
	Down
07 Impala	$300
06 G-6	$300
11 Impala	$400
03 Benz 500E	$500
08 V.W. EOS	$600
04 Nissan 350	$600
06 Silverado	$900
10 Navigator	$1000
06 Silverado	$1000
06 Ram 250	$1500

WANTED
Junk Cars, Trucks & Vans
Pay in cash.
Towing free
260-602-7800

FINANCIAL

LEGALS

FIND A BARGAIN



IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!

Legals

MDK #19-000942
TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Sheriff Sale File number: 85-20-0011-SS
Date & Time of Sale: Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.
Sale Location: Wabash County Sheriff's Department Basement, Miami St Entrance, 79 W Main Street, Wabash, IN
Judgment to be Satisfied: $15,642.28

Cause No.: 85C01-1902-MF-000140
Plaintiff: Bank of America, N.A.
Defendant: Tammy L. Hurst, AKA Tammy Hurst, AKA Tammy L. Larson, Michael J. Larson, C. Lavonne Lautzenheiser, Pathfinder Services, Inc., United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Bank of America, N.A. and Jefferson Capital Systems LLC

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Wabash County, Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, at the hour of 10:00 AM of said day as listed above, at the Wabash County Sheriff's Office, 79 W. Main Street, Wabash, Indiana:

Lot numbered One (1) in the Plat of Third and Maple Addition to the Town of North Manchester, Indiana, according to the recorded Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 8 page 1 in the Office of the Recorder of Wabash County, Indiana.

Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws. This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3.

Ryan Baker, Sheriff of Wabash County
By: Connie Rich, Administrative Assistant
Phone: (260) 563-8891

Township of property location: Chester
Common street address of property: 306 West 3rd Street, North Manchester, IN 46962
Property tax ID: 85-03-32-304-127.000-002

Attorney: Elyssa M. Meade
Attorney Number: 25352-64
Law Firm: Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC
PO Box 441039
Indianapolis, IN 46244
Contact Number: 614-222-4921

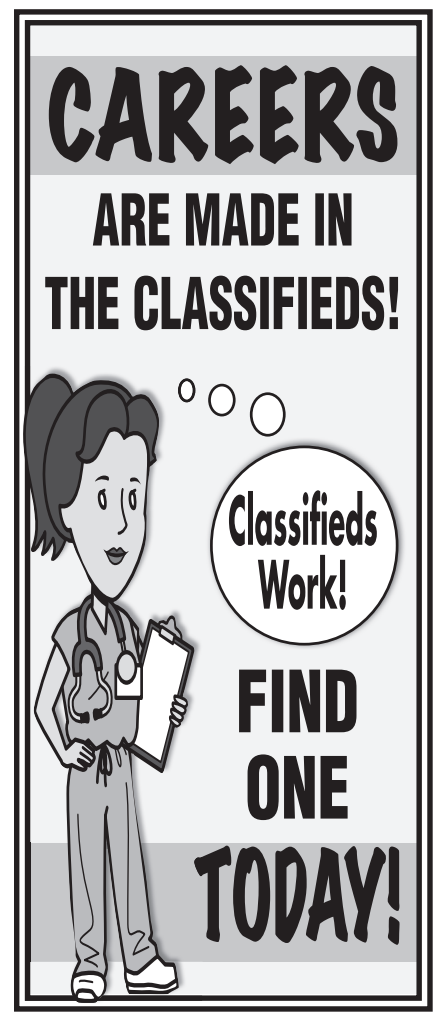
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known address published herein.
hspaxlp

Special Notice



Legals

STATE OF INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT/ OWQ, NPDES PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 2020 –2E–RD; NOTICE DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2020; RESPONSE DUE: MARCH 16, 2020. DRAFT RENEWAL: CARRIAGE HOUSE ESTATES MOBILE HOME PARK WWTP, Permit No. IN0051861, WABASH COUNTY, 351 E 100 N, Wabash, IN. This semi-public facility discharges 0.006 million gallons daily of treated sanitary wastewater into Chamberlain Ditch. Permit Manager: Nick Eilerman, 317/232-8619, neilerma@idem.in.gov. Public Response/Comments: Written comments are required, send first class mail to: IDEM/OWQ/NPDES/PS, 100 N Senate Av (mail code 65/42PS Rm 1255) Indianapolis, IN 46204, or Email to the Permit Manager. A copy of the Draft Permit is also on file with your local Health Department. Comments/Public Hearing: IDEM is required, by Rule 327 IAC 5-3.5-5, to publish this Notice & solicit public comment or requests for Public Hearing. Visitors are welcome to view the documents at IDEM from 9 - 4, M - F (excluding state holidays; copies 10¢ per page). All written correspondence must be postmarked no later than the Response Due date of this Notice. Notices of subsequent action will ONLY be sent to persons providing their contact address or Email & cannot be made to persons who fail to request such notifications. Public Hearing Determination: IDEM will determine if a Public Hearing is needed based on the comments or requests received. All requests must include the following: name & contact information (address, phone, E-mail) of the person making the request & their interest; persons represented by the person making the request; the reason for the request; and the issues proposed for consideration at the Hearing. For your rights & responsibilities see: Public Participation: http://www.in.gov/idem/5474.htm; Citizen Guide to IDEM: https://www.in.gov/idem/6900.htm. Please tell others you think would be interested in this matter. HSPAXLP 2/13/2020



Special Notice

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* Setting of Foundation
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* Yard Drainage Issues
* Crawl Space Moisture
* Basement Humidity
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or 765-985-3312

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AUTO INSURANCE
DESIGNED FOR AARP MEMBERS



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AVERAGE SAVINGS WHEN YOU SWITCH

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ALLSTATE	$477
STATE FARM	$383

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*Savings amounts are averages based on information from The Hartford's AARP Auto Insurance Program customers who became new policyholders between 1/1/16 and 12/31/16 and provided data regarding their savings and prior carrier. Your savings may vary. AARP and its affiliates are not insurers. Paid endorsement. The Hartford pays royalty fees to AARP for the use of its intellectual property. These fees are used for the general purposes of AARP. AARP membership is required for Program eligibility in most states. The AARP Automobile Insurance Program from The Hartford is underwritten by Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates, One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, CT 06155. In Washington, the Auto Program is underwritten by Hartford Casualty Insurance Company. Auto program is currently unavailable in Massachusetts, Canada and U.S. Territories or possessions. Specific features, credits and discounts may vary and may not be available in all states in accordance with state filings and applicable law. Applicants are individually underwritten and some may not qualify.